

# Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 17

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

September 3, 2008

## GARMISCH

### CLUB FUN

Team Beyond battles it out in Muck Wars.

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## TRANSFORMATION

# USAREUR announces FY09 actions

**DETAILED  
IMPACT  
BY UNIT,  
LOCATION  
ON  
PAGE 24**

*USAREUR news release*

The U.S. Army, Europe announced Aug. 27 its Fiscal Year 2009 force structure changes, which will convert, inactivate and relocate numerous units stationed in Germany and Italy to support Army Transformation and the Department of Defense's overall Global De-

fense Posture and to increase strategic responsiveness in the face of threats posed by the Global War on Terrorism.

USAREUR continues to support the Global War on Terrorism while simultaneously transforming units and consolidating into our enduring Main Operating Bases.

In Germany, as a result of

these unit actions, there will be an overall reduction of 390 U.S. personnel to include an increase of approximately 30 Soldiers, and a decrease of approximately 234 Family members, 186 U.S. Civilians and 111 Local National Civilian employees.

In Italy there will be a decrease of 28 Soldiers and 26

Family members, an increase of 11 U.S. civilians, and no change to the number of local national employees.

These numbers reflect the total personnel associated with the units and organizations in this announcement. The impact on both military and civil-

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**NET  
DECREASE  
OF 390 U.S.  
PERSON-  
NEL IN  
GERMANY**

## DEPLOYMENTS

# How we operate



Photo by John M. Wagstaffe

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. (center) tours the town of Medina Wasl at the National Training Center Aug. 14. with Brig. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commanding general, NTC and Fort Irwin (right); and Col. Randal A. Dragon, commander, NTC Operations Group (left).

by **ROBERT ABRAMS**  
*Army News Service*

Dwell time for Soldiers between deployments is expected to increase to 17 months next year, and almost to 24 months by 2011, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

He said this will allow the National Training Center to once again focus on "conventional operations" and not just counter-insurgency training.

Gen. Casey made his re-

The conversion of the Army to a modular, brigade-based force is 70 percent complete.

marks during an interview outside the town of Medina Jabal in the National Training Center's range area, "the box," during a visit to NTC Aug. 14.

### Changing training scenarios

Gen. Casey said that one of the main things he did during his visit was to speak with Brig. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commanding general, National

See CASEY Page 24

## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE BLUE

# Army upgrading to new, blue variation of Class A uniforms

by **TODD LOPEZ**  
*Army News Service*

*New coat will be wrinkle resistant with athletic cut*

The Army has made it official; the green service uniform, which has defined the service since the mid-1950s, is on the outs.

In place of the green uniform will be a variation of the blue uniform, something many Soldiers already own.

Official word on the new "Army Service Uniform," or ASU, was released Aug. 20 in a message to all Army activities. The message defines the wear policy and the "bridging" strategy for transition to the

new uniform.

"It's a culmination of transformation efforts that started in 2004," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston of the new ASU.

"We had three 'Class A' style uniforms, all the same style jacket, with just a different color -- the policies on how we wore accoutrements on them were different. We asked the question -- if we wear one only, which would it be? And the blue uniform was the most popular of the three," he said.

The new ASU coat, similar

See ENLISTED Page 14



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Phil Prater

The new ASU replaces the white, blue, and green service uniforms.

## AIR TIME

# Holiday greeting program kicks off

by **CHRISTINE JUNE**

*USAG Kaiserslautern Public Affairs*

An Army and Air Force Hometown News Service team from San Antonio will be traveling throughout Europe in August and September to record holiday greetings for broadcast on television and radio stations in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

Those eligible to participate: active-duty servicemembers, government civilians, retirees, Department of Defense Dependent School teachers and family members who won't be home for the holidays.

Last year, the news team recorded 2,677 greetings in Europe, said Kris Grogan, HN broadcast chief.

"We had a confirmed audience of (almost 40 million) for television and (more than 55 million) for radio," said Grogan, who was last year's and will be this year's European team chief. "Our greets aired in

See HOLIDAY Page 24

## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



Dr. (Col.) **Curtis Goho** took second place in the inspirational category, third in country music.

# Dental Clinic officer wins song competition

by **MARY MARKOS**  
*Bavarian News*

"If you hear voices in your head, you might be crazy. If you hear voices and music, you might be a songwriter."

The words begin a personal message from songwriter Dr. (Col.) Curtis Goho, of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic, on a compilation CD he made with the songs he has written since he was 16-years-old.

Now 52, Goho was recognized in the 2007/2008 Songs from the Soul of Service

See GOHO Page 14

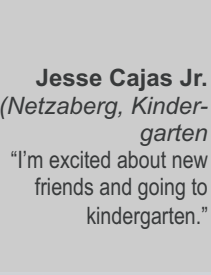


## Q&amp;A

What are you **excited** about this **school** year?



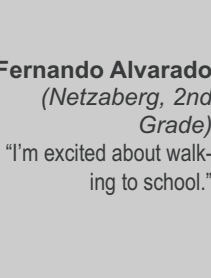
**Grace Bartlebaugh**  
(Netzaberg, 3rd Grade)  
"I'm excited about using my new school supplies."



**Jesse Cajas Jr.**  
(Netzaberg, Kindergarten)  
"I'm excited about new friends and going to kindergarten."



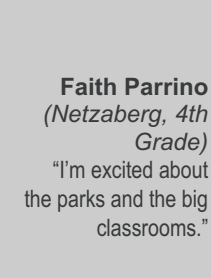
**Milla George**  
(Netzaberg, 4th Grade)  
"I'm excited about the new playground."



**Fernando Alvarado**  
(Netzaberg, 2nd Grade)  
"I'm excited about walking to school."



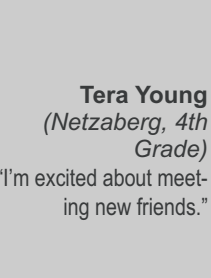
**Erica Edmonds**  
(Netzaberg, 3rd Grade)  
"I'm excited about getting to see my friends from the school in Vilseck."



**Faith Parrino**  
(Netzaberg, 4th Grade)  
"I'm excited about the parks and the big classrooms."



**Aaliyah Mercado**  
(Netzaberg, 1st Grade)  
"I'm excited about the teachers."



**Tera Young**  
(Netzaberg, 4th Grade)  
"I'm excited about meeting new friends."



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

# GC shares first impressions

## Calls on community to clean housing, common areas, urges feedback for continued improvement

Since arriving in Grafenwoehr nearly a month ago, I have had the chance to get around and form what each of us do: a first impression. Please let me share mine with you.

We have fantastic people with passion who understand the greater purpose of our efforts. It is evident in our conversations and their motivation for what they do is genuine and quite frankly contagious.

They know the mission and operate with teamwork. This is key, and it is what I gauge any organization by.

Another impression is the reality of the Grafenwoehr mission and operating environment.

The Grafenwoehr-Vilseck community is well known for training, but what has now changed is the fact that we are home to an

expeditionary Army consisting of two major maneuver units, and associated battalion and company level organizations that all train, deploy, fight, and reintegrate.

Behind these units are our tremendous families who endure long separation in an overseas environment. What was once a place to train is now an enduring base with accelerated demands.

It is clear to me that our growth cannot wait until full completion to provide the services our people expect and deserve, as is the case with the sudden integration of the 172nd.

We are figuratively "building an airplane in-flight," and do not have the luxury of time to provide perfect facilities and services.

To meet these demands, we are adapting our systems and processes accordingly to ensure we achieve the mission.

Moreover, we depend on you, as our sensors, to give us feedback so we can improve everything we do.

One of the first areas needing improvement is our appearance.

**Our people want and deserve a safe, clean, and orderly place to live and work, but money alone cannot fix human behavior.**

While I have been awed by the \$1 billion-plus in military construction and renovation, I am taken back by the first impression that struck me upon entering the garrison.

The amount of litter and general untidiness in many of our housing, barracks, and common areas strikes me dead-on, and I am not surprised by many of our concerned folks who have approached me with the same observations.

Our people want and deserve a safe, clean, and orderly place to live

and work, but money alone cannot fix human behavior. I ask each of us to look after our neighbors and our common areas. This is an area needing improvement, one that we must do together.

Our mission is noble and we have a great team of fantastic people. The garrison and tenant unit leadership and staffs are working together to improve our community. One of those leaders is my Command Sergeant Major William Berrios.

Berrios is a seasoned leader who knows the community challenges, having served as a battalion command sergeant major in Korea and most recently as the CSM of U.S. Army Garrison Livorno, Italy.

He is empowered to speak on my behalf and we are already off to a great start to an equally great tour — an experience that includes you, the people of our community.

*Col. Chris Sorenson  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

## CSM CORNER

# Be aware of form, reg updates to avoid pay, other serious problems

This column provides me a means and opportunity for updating the community on services we provide, changes to Army regulations, achievements by the garrison, and its personnel and follow-up summaries on specific requests.

More importantly, I'm asking you, members of this community, to provide feedback (both good and bad) on the quality of life and services of this garrison. You are my eyes and ears around the community!

**WTU**  
I attended the August Warrior Transition Unit forum, and one issue that came up was utility bill payments. There was some confusion about how the process works for reimbursement or payment of phone, Internet, and cable bills for WTU Soldiers.

I urge WTU Soldiers to call or visit the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Bldg. 227 at Vilseck, DSN 476-3165 or CIV 09662-83-3165 if they have any questions about this process.

### DD Form 93

There's an important change regarding DD Form 93 and the death gratuity payment. Under the most recent law, Soldiers may designate one to 10 persons to receive all or a portion of the \$100,000 death gratuity payment. All new DD Form 93s must be completed on the January 2008 version. Any August 1998 version executed or updated after July 1, 2008, is invalid, so please update your information on the new form only.

I also encourage you to contact the Directorate of Human Resources, DSN 475-7271, for more information.

Other changes and updates of regulations include:

■ Missing NCOERs ([http://www.armystudyguide.com/content/army\\_board\\_study\\_guide\\_topics/ncoer/ar-623206.shtml](http://www.armystudyguide.com/content/army_board_study_guide_topics/ncoer/ar-623206.shtml))

■ The "Army Service Uniform (ASU) Wear Policy" (<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/uniform/default.asp>)

■ Retention Beyond Scheduled Release or Discharge Date Due to Medical Reasons for Soldiers Assigned or Attached to a WTU (<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/wtu/docs/WTUConsolidatedGuidanceAdministrative.pdf>)

### Kudos

I could go on and on about the things that make this garrison great, but here are just a few:

The CSM Lawrence T. Hickey (**Camp Normandy**) Dining Facility has been announced as the Installation Management Command-Europe Level Large Category winner of the Phillip A. Connelly Award for this year, and the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels DFAC is the IMCOM-E runner-up in the small DFAC category. Congratulations to the Camp Normandy DFAC as it competes in the DA level competition later this year.

Congratulations also go to USAG Garmisch's Sgt. Marco Garced, who was named the

IMCOM Soldier of the Year!

And a big "thank you" to the Grafenwoehr MWR Staff, BOSS, AAFESS, Audio Tyme, Alpine and all the volunteers and participants that put together a **spectacular car show** Aug. 16!

This garrison is very lucky to have such outstanding support from its tenant units. We cannot be successful without your support.

### Keeping it clean

Along those lines, I've asked the tenant units, training units and visitors for their assistance in keeping the installation clean.

Policing our working, training, recreational and commercial areas of litter and trash and keeping our yards maintained are top priorities of the garrison command team.

Personally, we should take pride in maintaining such a beautiful installation. Soldiers and their families want to come to Grafenwoehr because it is such a nice place—let's keep it that way!

I close by asking again for your help. Volunteers are needed for Hispanic American Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). Please contact Frank Melendez at DSN 475-6512 for more information or to volunteer.

*Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios  
CSM, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

**We want to hear what you have to say!**  
**Write a letter to the editor today and tell us about issues that matter to you.**  
**Call 475-7113 for more information.**

# Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Photo by Sgt. Stephen Morgan

**THE PATH FORWARD:** U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Chris Sorenson (second from left) and his command staff and directors gathered with USAG Hohenfels Commander Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg and USAG Garmisch Manager Karin Santos during an Aug. 26 on-site conference at Grafenwoehr’s Camp Normandy. The meeting was intended to begin an internal dialogue that will define the garrison’s path forward in support of the expeditionary Army. *Front row (from left):* Chaplain (Col.) David Hillis, Col. Chris Sorenson, Karin Santos, Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, Bridy Godwin, Kim Gillespie, Dorothy Bratcher, Tony Frazier, Greg Fobell, Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios. *Second row (from left):* Russ Stokes, Tom Hays, Randall Corbin, Chris Saucedo, Ron Biederman, Steve Steinburg, Clint Covert, Manfred Lobenhofer, Mary Cooper, Ann Bruennig. *Third row (from left):* Andy Verral, Dick Cooper, John Burns, Jim van Patton, Ken Stark, Dave Breeden, Audre Binder, Horst Zeitler, Michael Saalborn, Lt. Col. Shawn Driscoll, J.P. Meir.

# Community invited to Neighborhood Week

*Special to the Bavarian News*

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s partner city Weiden is hosting a week of activities to strengthen neighborly relations with their neighboring U.S. and Czech Republic populations.

Every day has a different theme and offers a variety of activities to enjoy.

“We will celebrate with our neighbors for eight days,” said Weiden’s Lord Mayor Kurt Seggewiß. “I welcome not only our Czech neighbors but also our American neighbors from the garrison Grafenwoehr and hope that we will develop close ties to build long-term relationships.”

## SCHEDULE

### Sept. 13: Sports Day

**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.,** International Bambini Icehockey Tournament, Weiden Ice Stadium

**1 p.m.:** German-American student sports day, DJK Weiden sports field (Ludwig-Wolker-Weg 19, Weiden); German, Czech and U.S. basketball

tournament, Mehrzweckhalle Weiden;

**4 p.m.,** German-Czech water polo game, Schätzlerbad Outdoor Pool Weiden;

**6 p.m.,** opening of the Neighborhood Week by Lord Mayor Kurt Seggewiß with barbecue at DJK Weiden sports field.

### Sept. 14: Culture Day

**11 a.m.,** exhibition “Weiden Creates Passion”, artistic manhole cover designed by students of Kepler-High-School Weiden, main lobby of New Town Hall;

**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.,** exhibition “Traditional Czech Costumes, Weiden Municipal Museum;

**2 p.m.,** guided tour of Weiden in English, meet at Old Town Hall.

### Sept. 15: Intercultural Day

**9.30 a.m.:** Opening of the comic strip exhibition, main lobby of New Town Hall;

**10 a.m.,** guided tour of New Town Hall in Russian, Turkish, English,

Polish, and German, meet in the main lobby.

### Sept. 16: Health and Leisure Day

**10 p.m. - 5 p.m.,** various activities at Upper Market Weiden and information on health and fitness issues;

**3-5 p.m.,** stage events (ballet, dance, Star Moves)

### Sept. 17: Regional Products Day

**7 a.m. - 1 p.m.,** weekly produce market in the lower pedestrian zone featuring regional delicacies, flowers and plants.

**10 a.m.** Mayor Lothar Höher, County Commissioner Wolfgang Lippert and Deputy County Commissioner Willi Neuser will test their potato balancing skills. Donations go to local charities.

### Sept. 18: Beer Day

**2 p.m. - 10 p.m.,** beer mile, lower pedestrian zone, regional and Czech

breweries present their specialties.

**5.30 p.m.,** musical entertainment with the Weidener Musikanten;

**6 p.m.,** keg tapping by Lord Mayor Seggewiß, County Commissioners Simon Wittmann and Wolfgang Lippert, USAG Grafenwoehr Garrison Commander Col. Chris Sorenson and Marienbad Mayor Zdeněk Král.

### Sept. 19: Language and Job Day

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,** Forum “Languages and Vocations” at the Max-Reger-Halle Weiden;

**10.30 a.m.** Opening and Czech language course;

**4 p.m. - 6 p.m.:** German-American Game Club: English is Fun

**7 p.m.:** German-American Stammtisch, VHS Café, Sedanstrasse.

### Sept. 20: Weiden’n annual Fall Fair

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**11 a.m. and 2 p.m.,** fashion show at the lower pedestrian zone.

# USAREUR announces ‘08 Soldier, NCO of Year

*USAREUR news release*

U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army’s top 12 Soldiers battled it out for three days in August to determine the command’s top warriors ... both Soldier and NCO. The winners were announced during an Aug. 28 ceremony at Kaiserslautern’s Armstrong’s Club.

Sgt. Stanley E. Black, Soldier of the year for USAREUR separate units, and Staff Sgt. Jonathan R. Higgs, NCO of the year for the Southern European Task Force, earned the job of representing USAREUR at the Department of the Army-level Soldier and NCO of the year competition.

USAREUR deputy commanding general, Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer, spoke to the gathered competitors about the occasion’s significance.

“The one single thing that sets the U.S. Army apart from all others is the quality of our noncommissioned



Black

officer corps,” he said. “And the one thing that sets our Soldiers apart from all others is the fact that they’ve got quality NCOs looking after them and holding them accountable to train to standard.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam, USAREUR interim command sergeant major, congratulated all the competitors on their achievements. “In this kind of competition, (you) find out a lot about yourself – how much you can take, and how much you can give back,” said “And at the end of it, you can sit back and say, ‘Yes, that was it – I’ve done it.’”

Coordinators aim to make the USAREUR competition harder than the DA competition, said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Stanfill, USAREUR human resources manager and event coordinator.

“If the competitors can excel at what we throw at them, it makes them that much more ready when they move on to the DA level,” he said.

Black said his main goal in competing was to develop as an NCO.

“It looks good for Sergeant Black to do these great looking things; but outside of competing, I have two

Soldiers that I have to train, to guide, lead and mentor. So that was the main thing that I came here for, to be a more equipped leader,” he said.

Higgs said a motivating factor for him was to honor other Soldiers.

“I would encourage every Soldier who is thinking about competing in this kind of competition to do their best and to put their best foot forward. I do it because my brothers and sisters-in-arms make their sacrifices for everyone else and this is symbolic of my way of making a sacrifice by putting the time and effort into doing this. If I can’t be down range, then I will be doing something else that is meaningful and honorable,” he said.

USAREUR’s three-day competition included two land navigation courses, a 15-kilometer ruck march, day and night weapons qualifications, an appearance before a board, written examinations, an Army Physical Fitness Test and a series of other



Higgs

combat tasks.

**Soldier of Year competitors**

**Sgt. Stanley Black,** U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Separate Units

**Sgt. Nicole E. Crottie,** Alpha Co. U.S. Army NATO Joint Forces Command

**Spc. William L. Foulks,** Southern European Task Force

**Pfc. Jason A. Hancock,** 21st Theater Sustainment Command

**Pfc. Robert W. Harshbarger,** Headquarters, Special Troops Battalion, Seventh Army

**Spc. Daniel R. Ponton,** 172nd Infantry Brigade

**NCO of Year competitors**

**Staff Sgt. Jonathan R. Higgs,** Southern European Task Force

**Sgt. Keithrick Howard,** HQS & HQS Co., SHAPE Battalion, U.S. Army, NATO

**Staff Sgt. Mark C. Lewis,** 18th Military Police Brigade

**Staff Sgt. Cory W. MacNeil,** Seventh Army NCO Academy

**Staff Sgt. Dejan Pajic,** Headquarters, Special Troops Battalion, Seventh Army

**Staff Sgt. Christopher G. Smith,** 172nd Infantry Brigade

## Spotlight on Education



**Name:** Peggy Perks

**What grade and subject do you teach?** First Grade

**Hometown:** Newark, Del.

**How long have you been a teacher?** 30 years

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** I love seeing children learn to read and how excited they are when they realize that they can read. Most of them say their moms taught them to read.

## AAFES celebrating retirees who ‘still serve’

*Special to the Bavarian News*

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is extending special retirement benefits to former Soldiers and Airmen who shop at their exchange during the annual “Still Serving” weekend Sept. 5 to 7.

Invitations to this event, included a “Salute to Your Service” sales flier, are already hitting the mailboxes of more than 3 million Army and Air Force retirees, active-duty and National Guard and Reserve members worldwide.

Inside, the exchanges’ most distinguished shoppers will find exclusive savings on a wide variety of categories, including certain computer notebooks, tires, and at food outlets.

“Every time retirees choose to shop at the exchange, they not only save money and don’t pay sales tax, but they also provide needed support for morale, welfare and recreation programs; facilities; and non-appropriated fund construction projects,” said Mat Dromey, AAFES’ chief marketing officer.

“Without their support, it would not have been possible for AAFES to return more than \$272.7 million to armed forces MWR programs and services last year,” he said.

Besides the savings at “brick and mortar” exchanges, authorized shoppers will also find details of the “Salute to Your Service” sweepstakes at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com). A random drawing will be held to select the winners of a navigation system, portable music players, digital camera, digital picture frame and other prizes.

Authorized exchange customers can learn more about activities planned for the special weekend at their specific exchange by calling their local store manager. Visit [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com).

■ **CLARIFICATION:** A commentary published in the Aug. 20 issue of the Bavarian News did not identify the author. Katie Cowart, the Bavarian News assistant editor, was the author of the Page 3 article, “Even I, a single woman, can learn and grow at a marriage retreat.”



# Don't miss out on MWR entertainment



Star of CSI: New York Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band performed MWR concerts throughout Germany in July.

Story and photo by  
**MARY MARKOS**  
*Bavarian News*

More than 700 U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community members filled the Grafenwoehr Field House July 6 in anticipation of the Lt. Dan Band concert.

Led by "CSI: New York" and "Forest Gump" actor Gary Sinise, the band performed, danced, and interacted with audience members.

The band tour, sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation, in conjunction with the United Service Organization and Armed Forces Entertainment, was one of seven performances to visit the garrison since April.

While Lt. Dan Band may have involved a well-known U.S. celebrity, Neville Paschall, USAG Grafenwoehr MWR special events coordinator, said it is important to support all artists.

"If they have enough heart to come over here and put on a show, we need to make the time to come out and enjoy it," he said.

Entertainment is brought to the garrison through the USO, AFE, and Army Entertainment.

While lodging and travel is provided, performers are not paid for their time.

Sinise, who traveled to Iraq to meet with troops at the conclusion of the band tour, said he performs for the military with an appreciation for what Soldiers and their family members sacrifice.

"I put the band together actually to first go out for the USO and start visiting troops," he said. "A good 75 percent of our shows are military related... I think as an American who is being defended by these people... the least I can do is back them up by helping to support their families."

Support, however, said George DeGrella, AFE Europe and Balkans regional manager, is required to ensure entertainment continues to be scheduled in the garrison.

"If no one shows up to the show, maybe the community has enough entertainment. We do have to look at the entire picture," he said.

While entertainment is also scheduled based on the entertainer's availability and venue resources, attendance is a factor.

"It's kind of like a competition," Paschall explained. "There are a lot of installations out there."

Attendance, Paschall added, is the community's way of showing gratitude and appreciation to the performers who, like Sinise, maintain an exhausting schedule in an effort to visit as many military installations as possible.

"They are doing it to bring a little bit of America to us... We need to support the shows. (The performers) work hard to put on the show. They are willing to alter the show for the military (ensuring the show is family friendly). It is their dedication to the American public to come over here."

## Upcoming Events USAG Graf Invitational Golf Tournament

Sept. 5 - Bring your team of four to the Pottenstein Golf Course to play 18 holes scramble-style. The event is open to all US ID cardholders. For more info call Tony Lee at DSN 475-7576 or CIV 09641-83-7576. To signup and pay, visit the Graf Outdoor Rec, Bldg. 547. See you on the green!

## Operation Rising Star

Do you have what it takes to be the next big thing? MWR brings you the opportunity to show your stuff

and make it big. Get your voice ready, because this singing competition starts in September. Participants sing and are able to win local cash prizes.

The overall winner at the garrison will go on to compete in a worldwide singing competition much like Military Idol.

**Sept. 12** Tryouts  
**Sept. 26** Finals

To sign up, call or visit the Langenbruck Center, Rose Barracks Bldg. 607 DSN 476-2360 or CIV 009662-83-2360.

## Off the Wall

Sept. 18- Come enjoy this free, family friendly concert at the Rose Barracks Memorial Fitness Gym. Off the Wall is a Top 40/dance band. This year, the five-member band, featuring both male and female lead vocalists, puts on an arena-style show featuring a musical spectrum, including country, rap and everything in between. Concert begins at 8 p.m.

## Everclear Rock Band

TBA - Check the weekly Garrison Grafenwoehr e-newsletter for more information.

# first day snapshots



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

**HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION:** Somerset Bethke, a sixth-grader at Ansbach's Rainbow Elementary School, matches symbols to their descriptions on the smart board in Olga Strader's class on the second day of school Aug. 26 while Tim Beury looks on, waiting for his turn. Ansbach youth officially ended summer vacations by going back to school Aug. 25 at Rainbow, Ansbach Elementary School, Illesheim Elementary School and Ansbach Middle/High School. Officials remind community members to drive safely and look out for school children.



Photo by Mary Markos

**CAREFUL ATTENTION:** Kindergartener Hunter Smith, 4, listens closely to classroom rules on his first day at Netzaberg Elementary School.

# Welcome Back!



Photo by Mary Markos

**TELL ME AGAIN, PLEASE:** Master Sgt. Carleen Williams, of the Joint Multinational Training Command, reassures daughter Kendra, 5, during her first day of kindergarten at Netzaberg Elementary School.

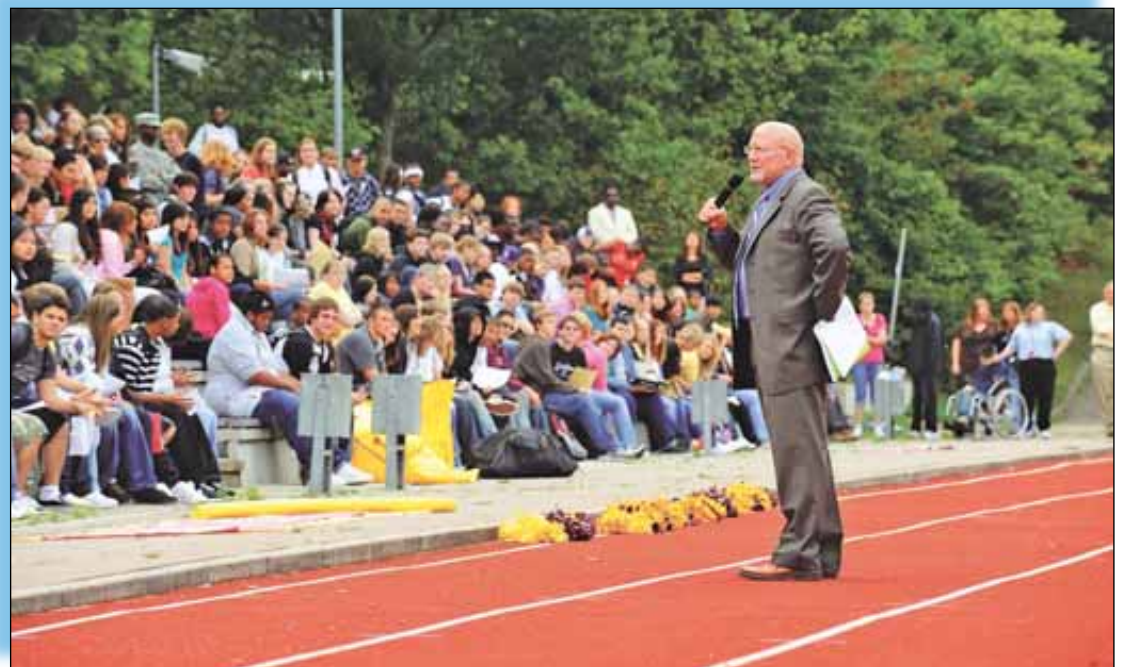


Photo by Sgt. Stephen Morgan

**MIND THE RULES:** Vilseck High School students hear from their principal, Duane Werner, on the first day.



# FMWR wins big at Army Rec Awards

by JESSICA F. ROBERSON  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

The results are in: the Pete Burke Community Center and Garmisch Community Library on Artillery Kaserne are the best of the best. Both facilities won the 2008 Army Recreation Award for best in garrisons of similar size worldwide. The library and center have won the award several times since 2004.

The PBC, located next to Garmisch’s Child Development Center, is the main facility for garrison events. The library is located on the second floor.

“The multi-purpose facility strives to provide recreational, educational, physical, and entertaining programs to the garrison and surrounding communities,” said Paul Dutro, tour guide.

Big events, like the transition of authority from Stuttgart to Grafenwoehr and the signing of the Army Family Covenant were held in the building. Other events, including the annual garrison holiday reception and annual ethnic observances like the Asian Pacific Heritage celebration, are held there throughout the year. It even served as a casino last spring for the FMWR Texas Hold’Em poker tournament.

Individually, the library and center were both determined to have the two best small installation programs of their type in the Army. Both programs were scored based on several factors, such as significant improvements, community special events, customer driven activities, renovation and improvement projects, and experimental programming. Despite tight budgets, both facilities continued to make major



Photo by John Reese

**Puppet shows at the Garmisch Community Library are one of many activities that earned the little library the Army Recreation Award for the fifth year in a row.**

improvements in 2007-08. The library won the 2008 Army Recreation Award for the fifth year in a row and has a reputation for being one of the best community libraries, big or small, in the Installation Management Command. This is due in large part to the creativity of the

staff who are constantly adding new programs, upgrading equipment, and experimenting with activities that are partnerships with the community. Puppet plays, Harry Potter book release parties, and local artist exhibits give the library a constantly refreshed, cozy, and inviting face.

Downstairs, the PBC took on more duties in its mission during the past year. It has always been the home of community events, training, and leisure travel in Garmisch, and last year it saw the addition of Outdoor Recreation and the Bikes and Boards Shop. “Operating hours and staffing were increased. New programs were introduced ranging from mountaineering programs to cultural expeditions with destinations as far away as Rome,” explained Drew Benson, ODR spokesman. Traditional programs were augmented with new ones such as overnight mountain hut hikes and the Fat Tire Race. This Fat Tire Race coming soon is the final event in the U.S. Forces Mountain Bike series, returning to Garmisch with the creative support of the staff. A recent addition to PBC family, not physically at the center but about 2km on Kramer Mountain above the kaserne, is the Kean’s Lodge facility. Kean’s Lodge is a bunkhouse nestled among the pines with extensive grounds and beautiful views. It is an inexpensive and ideal location for group activities like retreats or off-sites, allowing groups an affordable alternative when visiting Garmisch.

The garrison’s annual German-American Friendship Shoot will take place at Kean’s Lodge Saturday, Sept. 13. The hard work caring for the customers of USAG-Garmisch is done by a handful of dedicated FMWR employees. “We are more than happy to share our enthusiasm for everything the area has to offer,” said Tom Creley of ODR. “We have all opted to stay in Garmisch for a long time because of the quality of life and the endless amount of things to do here.”

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## Club Beyond teams face off in annual Muck Wars

■ *Pirate-themed games give team bragging rights for next year*

by ERIC HECKMAN  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

A messy battle between two “pirate ships” was held in the Breitenau housing area of Artillery Kaserne Aug. 23 as the local chapter of the chapel youth program Club Beyond held its fifth annual Muck Wars. With 30 teens in grades 6-12 participating, the “crews” of the Black Pearle and the Flying Dutchman fought for the honor of being the 2008 Muck Wars champions. The competition included various events, all with the goal of getting wet and muddy. The teens launched water balloons at each other, played capture the flag, and dug through the mud to find hidden treasure. Throughout the event, the teams earned points and fouls awarded them by the judges. Fouls resulted in time in Davy Jones’ Locker (the penalty box) which was full of gelatin, spaghetti and other messy things—a place only teenagers would want to sit. Ultimately, the Flying Dutchman prevailed, pirating away the championship after winning the tug-of-war and treasure hunt rounds. The day ended with a big barbecue supported by the chapel and the Club Beyond Booster Club. The teens walked away soiled and smiling, and some of the kids asked if this could be done this twice per year. The next Muck Wars is set for August 2009. Community teens are invited to join the fun.



Photo by Danni DiRoma

**USAG Garmisch teens are covered in mud and other slimy delights as they take part in the fifth annual Muck Wars held by the local Club Beyond chapter.**



## Sunday Riders!

About 150 motorcycles participating in the “Gear Up and Ride the Alps” weekend Aug. 22-24 finished the event with a rare opportunity to parade through the pedestrian zone of downtown Garmisch. Riders came from across Europe—as far away as Naples—on trio and several other models to attend the event. The weekend began with an Alpine display of heavy rain, thunder, and lightning Friday evening, with the skies relenting Saturday for a poker run, traditional biker games, bands, and food.

The popular annual event, based out of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, sold out of room packages, sending some bikers to the Vacation Village Campground and local hotels. The ELR Web site has a link to hundreds of photos of the event.

Photo by Courtney Newbauer



# Garrison offers Soldiers weekend shuttle bus to, from train station

Story and photo by  
**KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*Bavarian News*

Weekend outings may soon become a little bit safer.

Starting Sept. 12, shuttle busses will transport single Soldiers living on post from various post locations to the Parsberg train station, with pickups from Parsberg back to post on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The two-month trial shuttle schedule is designed to deliver Soldiers in time to catch trains to Nuremberg and Regensburg on Friday and Saturday nights, and to bring Soldiers back to post after the trains return them to Parsberg in the morning, said Staff Sgt. Cliff Neighbors, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers representative for U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels.

Shuttle buses currently run from post to Parsberg and back, but do not stop at the train station, and the times are not tailored for single Soldiers going to, or coming back from, a night in the city, explained Neighbors, who helped design the schedule to meet Soldier needs.

“We want the Soldiers to use the train if possible, and the problem is they still have to get to Parsberg from Hohenfels,” said Dan Voglesong, USAG Hohenfels safety manager.

“We know for a fact that most of the bad accidents occur after midnight,” he said, so Soldiers are encouraged to not take their cars when they go out on the weekends if at all possible.

“It’s all about the wellbeing of Soldiers. It’s about Soldiers helping Soldiers,” said Neighbors.

Ed Jones, USAG Hohenfels transportation officer, said the shuttle will be reevaluated after

two months to see if enough people use it to continue operations.

“If we can keep a drunk driver off the streets, it is worthwhile. If it benefits the morale of single Soldiers, it is worthwhile,” said Jones, stressing that Soldiers must use the service during the two-month trial in order for the program to continue.

Jones and Neighbors said the shuttle idea came from a week-long garrison conference in June focused solely on improving Hohenfels’ single Soldier quality of life.

Contact Ed Jones at DSN 466-2050 for more information.

- Friday Evening**
- 7:45 p.m. Bldg. 856 (Warrior Sports Café)
  - 7:47 p.m. Bldg. 322 (Shoppette area)
  - 7:49 p.m. Bldg. 3 (PX area)
  - 8:08 p.m. Parsberg Train Station

- Saturday Morning**
- 7 a.m. Parsberg Train Station
  - 7:19 a.m. Bldg. 3 (PX area)
  - 7:21 a.m. Bldg. 322 (Shoppette area)
  - 7:23 a.m. Bldg. 856 (Warrior Sports Café)

- Saturday Evening**
- 7:30 p.m. Bldg. 856 (Warrior Sports Café)
  - 7:32 p.m. Bldg. 322 (Shoppette area)
  - 7:34 p.m. Bldg. 3 (PX area)
  - 7:53 p.m. Parsberg Train Station

- Sunday Morning**
- 7 a.m. Parsberg Train Station
  - 7:19 a.m. Bldg. 3 (PX area)
  - 7:21 a.m. Bldg. 322 (Shoppette area)
  - 7:23 a.m. Bldg. 856 (Warrior Sports Café)



Shuttle busses will take Soldiers from post to the Parsberg train station on Friday and Saturday nights, and pick them up early Saturday and Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 12.

## PX, Commissary customers to see immediate changes

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*Bavarian News*

Change is one the way for Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Defense Commissary Agency customers.

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels representatives met Aug. 19 and generated a list of improvements for the installation’s AAFES and commissary services.

AAFES announced that additional maternity clothing will be added to the Post Exchange for the spring/summer 2009 season.

Other suggestions for improved PX service included adding snack items near the register and offering a larger selection of children’s clothing, 220 volt appliances, hair care products, and larger sized women’s workout clothing.

AAFES and DeCA reps briefed the council that they are preparing for the incoming training rotations and will make sure they have enough inventory to support both the rotational troops and permanent Hohenfels community members, according to Rebecca Spencer, PX store manager.

Hohenfels Commissary Director Jaime

Segarra Jr. said the next case lot sale will be held Oct. 3-4, with 3,000 cases on sale. Segarra said he has received many positive comments on the commissary’s new layout.

“People have commented that it looks cleaner and more organized,” he said.

The next AAFES/DeCA council will be held Nov. 6 or 7, according to Bridy Godwin, Plans, Analysis, and Integration officer for USAG Hohenfels. Godwin said all community members are invited to attend the meetings.

The more community input that is generated, the better service AAFES and DeCA will be able to provide to the community.

“It’s the best forum available for putting out your concerns for your AAFES and DeCA facilities,” said Spencer, urging community members to attend the meeting in November.

“It’s to let the community give voice to their concerns and what they would like to see changed, if possible, so we can better serve the community’s needs.”

Segarra said the council is a great avenue for community organization leaders to communicate questions or concerns that their members may have about AAFES and DeCA facilities.

## Four state-of-art outdoor paintball centers, one indoor coming soon

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*Bavarian News*

Community members should buff their paintball guns and unpack their gear.

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels has approved a project to construct four outdoor speed paintball fields and one indoor field by next spring.

The paintball fields will be the most state-of-the-art design in Installation Management Command-Europe, said Kurt Hahn, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels outdoor recreation director.

“When we’re done we’ll have the premier setup in Germany, in Europe in general. No one will have anything close,” he said. “It will be beyond even most tournament playing fields.”

The indoor fields, which will accommodate up to eight teams at once—two per field on four fields—will be built across from Tiger Field and are expected to be completed by April / May 2009.

The indoor field will be housed in what is now the fitness center. Its completion date is set for two-to-four months after the fitness center is relocated within the post gym, sometime in early 2009.

“I’m really excited about having indoor and outdoor fields,” said Hahn. “That way we’ll have options to play year-round. We can go inside and play in the winter or when it is raining.”

Hahn said he is working on acquiring more paintball equipment in preparation for the new fields. Outdoor Recreation has purchased 10 new industry standard guns with high-pressure bottles. He said by the time the fields are complete, the center should have 60 rental guns, enough to outfit all four fields worth of players.

“The command is putting a lot of money into the Soldiers here. Hohenfels is going to get what they deserve,” he said.

Lenny Ingram, community recreation director for Hohenfels’ Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, said paintball is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. It is a priority for Army outdoor recreation centers in part because it is most popular overall with the 18 to 25-year-old age group, one of the military’s largest demographics.

“Paintball continues to be one of the fastest growing sports in the world. It comes from people wanting to be outside and actually doing something, not sitting on the couch playing video games,” said Hahn.

The idea for the project was generated at a week-long garrison conference in June that

focused solely on improving quality of life for single Soldiers.

“After wireless Internet in the barracks, the Soldiers made paintball their biggest priority,” said Ingram.

Recent Army initiatives, like the Army Family Covenant, seem to be focused primarily on families, and single Soldiers started voicing their concerns, said Ingram.

“Our garrison commander took the time to listen to their concerns,” he said. “We’re trying to let (single Soldiers) know they’re our No. 1 priority, too. This was Soldier-driven. The command put emphasis behind it, and now we’re following through.”



Photo by Cpl. Angela Fry

Soldiers at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels will soon be able to play paintball without ever leaving post. Following a week-long garrison conference on improving the quality of life of single Soldiers, the garrison is building five paintball fields on post, and acquiring 60 new industry-standard paintball guns that will be available for rental through Outdoor Recreation.

Having a little trouble with the Kids?

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New Parents Support Call-In Radio Show

Presented by Hohenfels ACS

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CIV 09472-83-4073

AM 1485



# Soldiers can earn degree, promotion points for free at Education Center

Story and photo by  
**KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*Bavarian News*

From the outside, the Education Center at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels doesn't seem particularly impressive.

The inside is well organized and welcoming, but upon entering the lobby, it does not seem very different from any number of high school guidance offices, where plastic sleeves overflow with college brochures and scholarship handouts line the walls.

But just one step beyond the commonplace lobby, staff members can direct you to an educational counselor and you begin to realize the vast array of opportunities that await.

Never mind that they have a computer lab anyone can use without a Common Access Card.

Never mind that they can administer any type of test you may need—General Educational Development exams, Army Personnel Testing, entrance or course exams.

The really impressive thing about the Education Center is the number of ways Soldiers and family members can continue their education, and the number of ways the Army will fund or help find funding for the courses.

"The Army provides all these education benefits because they know the value of having an education for their Soldiers," said Bill Keller, education services specialist in charge of Hohenfels' center.

"For most Soldiers, a commander is going to encourage them to take college courses; it is to (the commander's) benefit. The higher the education, the better equipped and capable they are to learn and train," he said.

Keller said the very first thing someone should do if considering starting coursework at any level is come into the center and speak with a counselor.

"Initial counseling is important because it gets people started and enrolled," he said, referring to enrolling in Go Army Ed, at [www.GoArmyEd.com](http://www.GoArmyEd.com) —Soldiers' online portal to manage courses and request tuition assistance.

Department of Defense-wide, all active duty Soldiers are eligible for up to \$4,500 of tuition assistance per fiscal year, up to \$250 per semester hour.

"You can't beat tuition assistance, it's a great opportunity to have the



**Barbara Jensen, test administrator at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Education Center, advises Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Colantuono, who is planning for retirement, to take as many College Level Examination Program tests as he can before exiting active duty. Free for Soldiers and \$120 per test for family members, passing a CLEP test translates into college credit and promotion points. There are five general subject tests and a numerous listing of subject specific tests.**

Army pay for a degree," said Cristina Trinh, a counselor aide. "A lot of the programs are self paced, so it makes it easier (for Soldiers) in training, and there are a ton of schools to choose from."

To be eligible for TA, Soldiers must be working toward a degree or certificate. Counselors are there to help someone decide on an educational goal before enrolling in courses, said Keller.

"Usually if someone is just starting college I recommend they start toward an associate or general degree. That way, they don't have to choose right away what to specialize in," he said.

And once a student decides what they want their bachelor's degree in, they can usually transfer most of the general credits they have already completed.

Starting a new degree program after decades out of the classroom can seem a daunting task, but Keller said a significant number of people can earn credits before they even enroll in their first course.

"An important part for Soldiers is getting college credits for Army experience," he said, which is done through a database that tracks a Soldier's Army credentials and recommends which credits they could

be used toward.

For Soldiers and civilians, Barbara Jensen, a test administrator at the center, said she strongly advises taking College Level Examination Program tests before scheduling classes.

Free for Soldiers and \$120 each per family members, the five general subject CLEP tests carry a recommended six college credits each for passing.

"I know some people who have passed all five and that's almost a year of college credit. Not all people are going to do that, but they owe it to themselves to at least try," said Keller.

Even Soldiers not planning on earning a degree at the moment can take CLEP tests.

Each one passed—from the five general tests to a host of more specific subject tests—earns them promotion points.

Though there are many resources for Soldiers and family members who wish to earn their GED, associates, or bachelor's degree, the Education Center also spends a lot of its time helping people earn their master's degrees and professional certificates.

Four schools have contracts with the U.S. government to provide educational services, two of which

were contracted solely to provide access to master's programs. However, those four are not the only options.

"Just because these schools are here doesn't mean people can't go through another. All kinds of schools in the states can do everything by distance learning," Keller said, pointing out that students who choose that route still benefit considerably from the center through counseling and use of the testing center, where proctored exams are administered.

Some of the colleges offer classroom instruction at Hohenfels, though Keller says that of the people working on a degree at Hohenfels, about 75 percent complete most or all of their requirements through distance learning.

"Often times it is the family members that make the class go," he said, explaining that without spouses registering for the classes offered here, they might not always be filled enough to proceed.

Though spouses don't qualify for the \$4,500 per fiscal year of tuition assistance that active duty Soldiers do, there are a number of programs to help spouses earn a degree as well, including the Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program offered by Army Emergency Relief, federal financial aid and grants, and scholarships and discounts offered by individual colleges.

The Education Center has a packet of information on scholarships for military spouses through numerous organizations throughout the United States.

Trinh knows first hand about the benefits the Center has to offer.

"I came in and talked to the University of Phoenix rep, and now I'm doing my master's in education," she said, noting that as the spouse of an active duty Soldier, the university offers her a military discount.

She is also taking advantage of the Spouses to Teachers program and plans to start completing her student teaching requirements on post next fall.

"The bottom line," said Keller, "is that education helps everyone. It will increase your options. If a Soldier is staying in (the Army), it helps with promotion points. If they're exiting, it will help you springboard into a new career."

Visit the Education Center, Bldg. 351, or call DSN 466-2882 for more information.

## Fast Facts

The rundown on just a few of the services available at the Hohenfels Education Center.

### Testing

The Education Center administers Army Personnel Tests, college entrance exams, certification exams, and more.

They can also help you find ways to raise your General Technical test score and study for the General Educational Development exam.

### Tuition Assistance

Soldiers are entitled to up to \$250 per semester hour in tuition assistance, up to \$4,500 per fiscal year.

### Go Army Ed

An online portal for Soldiers to request and track tuition assistance, as well as view grades and manage degree requirements.

### AARTES

The Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System helps Soldiers view which college credit they may already be eligible for based on previous Army training.

### CLEP

College Level Examination Program tests allow students to obtain college credit by passing exams. Free for Soldiers and \$120 each for family members, CLEP tests also earn Soldiers promotion points.

### Spouses

Numerous options are available for spouses to obtain financial aid, including a scholarship through Army Emergency Relief, federal aid, military discounts at individual colleges, the Spouses to Teachers program, and a huge array of scholarships from private organizations.

# Mustang team learn Battle of the Bulge lessons

by Maj. **DARIN NUNN**  
*JMRC Mustang Team*

In December 1944, the U.S. Army faced its darkest days in Belgium and Luxembourg when it faced Nazi Germany in the Battle of the Bulge, the largest land campaign the U.S. Army has ever fought.

The Mustang observer/controller team, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center's brigade O/C team, took 19 Soldiers on a five-day staff ride of the battlefields contested by Nazi Germany and the U.S. Army.

Each unit is allocated funds for staff rides, an official Army event in which a group of Soldiers visit a former battlefield. The visit is an education tool, helping Soldiers to consider critical decisions, environmental factors, and battle outcomes to learn from past successes and failures.

"This was a great opportunity for the officers and NCOs of the Mustang Team to see where our forefathers fought and died in one of the greatest battles our Army fought in World War II," said Lt. Col. David Seigel, senior brigade observer/controller.

"I bet everyone on this trip knows of someone from their hometown that fought over here in the Battle of the Bulge."

While most people have heard of the 101st Airborne Division and the exploits of Company

E, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, portrayed in the hit HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers," many people have never heard of the 28th, 99th, or 106th infantry divisions.

In the fields, forests, and outskirts of villages such as Foy, Clervaux, Staumont, Stavelot, Butgenbach, La Glieze, and Bastogne, staff ride guide William C. Cavanaugh captivated the Mustangs with his knowledge of the small unit actions of these units, illuminating the extraordinary accomplishments of ordinary fighting men.

Cavanaugh's stories of five Medal of Honor awardees of the 99th Infantry Division showed that courage and heroism were common traits among the men of the division. Great leadership was displayed by many in the chain of command and some failures were on display too. The O/Cs said all were learning points they could relate to.

Mustang Soldiers, who observe brigade level staff and units as part of their mission with JMRC, said it was eye opening to hear that many times the only person with a map was the company commander.

There was no Blue Force Tracker or Command Post of the Future, digital tools that enable today's Army to maintain better situational awareness by displaying the common operational picture. The use of runners or primitive radios to drive the



**Lt. Col. Brian Hammer (left) and Lt. Col. Dave Seigel (right) from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Mustang Team, get a history lesson from tour guide Will Cavanaugh at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.**

*Courtesy photo*

orders was commonplace.

Cavanaugh gave vivid explanations from both sides of the conflict which led to a greater understanding of why the Nazi army chose the particular time and place for their attack.

"The staff ride was a fulfilling experience at many professional levels, but what impressed me the most were the memorials which dotted the countryside," said Sgt. First Class Gonzalo Soliz, brigade religious support O/C. "I knew they were scattered throughout the villages but

there were so many, and one could not escape the humbling awareness that so many sacrificed so much for the honorable notions of liberty and freedom."

History has shown that the principals of war remain the same. This staff ride enabled many seasoned professionals to reflect on them and on the incredible courage displayed by the thousands of young Americans that answered their country's call to stand against fascism thousands of miles from home.



# What's Happening

## Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

### Keep eye on school kids

The new school year has started for our community's elementary, middle school and high school students, and children will be walking, bicycling and taking busses to and from housing areas and the schools. Be alert and drive with caution between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays. Expect some delays in traffic due to the school activity and always yield and stop for school children and busses.

Netzaberg residents: Hundreds of students will be walking and bicycling through the Netzaberg complex to your new Elementary and Middle School opening for the first time this year. We recommend you keep your vehicle's speed well below the posted speed limit in and around Netzaberg on weekday mornings and afternoons.

### Girl Scout leaders meeting

We will be having a leader/co-leader informational meeting Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Grafenwoehr Girl Scout hut (Bldg. 122 next to the elementary school). This meeting is open to all current, new, and interested volunteers for the 2008-2009 Girl Scouting year. Currently we have a need for leaders and co-leaders in Graf, Vilseck, and Netzaberg. Interested? Please contact us at [grafgirlscouts@google.com](mailto:grafgirlscouts@google.com). Unsure? Come to the meeting and see what Girl Scouts is all about.

### Vilseck Red Cross hiring

The Vilseck American Red Cross is currently seeking individuals interested in applying for a temporary, full time position as a Field Office Coordinator. Applicants may apply on line at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) in the Service to Armed Forces listing, job number 7264BR. For further information contact the Vilseck American Red Cross at DSN 476-1760 OR CIV 09662-83-1760.

### MPD training announced

The Grafenwoehr Military Personnel Division will host an S-1 conference to provide training on MPD services, share information on current topics, and discuss our procedures; topics will include DIMHRS, TCS orders, ID cards, various personnel services, and how the MPD uses SharePoint to provide electronic distribution and sample DA 4187s. The conference will take place Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camp Aachen, Bldg. 1461. All HR specialists, S-1s, PAC clerks in the Bavaria Region are welcome to attend; attendees may also attend via VTC. Please RSVP not later than Sept. 12 to Carrie Meinzer at [carrie.meinzer@eur.army.mil](mailto:carrie.meinzer@eur.army.mil).

### Amberg Volksmarch

The Amberg Wander Verein (Club) E.v. is sponsoring its 39th International Volksmarch Sept. 20-21. The Volksmarch is sacationed by the International Volkssportverbandes E.v. and the Deutsches

Volkssportverbandes E.v. The start and end of the Volksmarch will be located in the Ammersricht section of Amberg. Ammersricht is located on the northern side of Amberg easily accessed off Highway 299 if travelling from Vilseck or Grafenwoehr areas. Directional signs will be clearly visible and located at all the main access routes leading into Amberg. Adequate and controlled parking will be available at the start/end site. Saturday the march kicks off 8 a.m. to noon, and Sunday 6:30-11 a.m. It ends at 4 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday

Cost: €1.50 per marcher. The cost for participants desiring an award is €3.80. A variety of awards will be available to select from.

Distance: Participants can enjoy the 5, 10, or 20 kilometer routes with refreshments being available on the 10 and 20 KM routes. A motorized safety patrol monitor the routes. The routes are stroller and nordic walking friendly.

Group Registration: Groups desiring to pre-register must be registered with the club by Sept. 16, however, this is not a mandatory requirement. The group registration fees should be deposited to Bank Account Number 190021097, Bank Control Number (BLZ) 75250000. Special prizes are awarded to the largest pre-registered groups. This is an opportunity for military units and their family members to come out in force and win a special prize! Any questions concerning this process should be directed to Larry Simank at CIV 09621-789274, e-mail [simank@t-online.de](mailto:simank@t-online.de).

### Next FAST Class slated

The Vilseck Education Center will be hosting its next Fast Class from Sept. 22 – Oct. 3, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Functional Academic Skills Training provides Soldiers with instruction in reading, mathematics, and language skills. The objective is to improve job performance, prepare Soldiers for more advanced academic courses, increase military career options, and enhance educational skills. The FAST class is a 60-hour academic course and is limited to twenty students per class. For more information please contact the Vilseck Education Center at DSN 476-2753.

### Kaiserslautern hosts election forum next week

The Kaiserslautern American German Business Club and the Atlantic Academy cordially invite you to attend a forum on the 2008 U.S. presidential election, Sept. 11. The event will be hosted by the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering, Fraunhofer-Platz 1, 67663 Kaiserslautern.

As has occurred in similar events every prior four-year U.S. election period, this evening will provide an opportunity for Americans and Germans to better understand the major party candidates, their positions and the issues facing the voters. This event is designed to be an educational and informational gathering and not a political rally for the various candidates.

The scheduled representations for the

panel will be Sudie Nolan-Cassimatis, Kaiserslautern Chairperson, Democrats Abroad Germany; Dimitri Cassimatis, Member, Democrats Abroad Germany; Michael Ricks, incoming Chairman, Republicans Abroad Germany; Stefan Prystawik, incoming Vice Chairman, Republicans Abroad Germany.

Each organization will be given an uninterrupted period of time to present their supported candidate and subject areas after which questions and discussion between the audience members and the panelists will take place.

The evening's timeline will be: 6-7:30 p.m., food and beverages may be purchased and a social gathering will be held in the Fraunhofer center cafeteria.

7:30 p.m., the U.S. presidential forum will begin in the Fraunhofer center amphitheater.

This event is open to all, though reservations should be made beforehand.

Please e-mail us your RSVP at [kaiserslautern@agbc.de](mailto:kaiserslautern@agbc.de), along with that of any guests who will accompany you, no later than Monday. Directions and further information will be provided all who make their reservation.

### German-American 'Stammtisch' in Weiden

The public is invited to attend the German-American "Stammtisch" Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the cafeteria of Volkshochschule, Sedanstrasse 13, in Weiden. Cost is 2 euro per person. This event will be held every Wednesday 8-9:30 p.m. after Sept. 19.

### Drivers training testing

Do you require a translation of USA-REUR driver's licenses?

The USAREUR Vehicle registry is the only agency authorized to issue a translation in order to obtain a German Drivers license (USAREUR REGULATION 190-1, paragraph 2-11). Anyone wishing to apply for a translation must do so 60 days before losing logistical support should forward the following items:

- Copy of the Aufenthaltsgenehmigung (German residency permit) or Polizeiliche Anmeldung (German police registration)

- Statement showing when logistical support ceases (ETS orders, statement CPAC)

- Photocopy of USAREUR POV License

- 20 Euro or \$25 check or money order

All requests must be forwarded to the USAREUR Vehicle Registry  
ATTN: Correspondence Section  
Unit 29230  
APO AE 09102  
Or the German Address:  
Registry of Motor Vehicles  
Taylor Barracks  
Havelland Str. Geb 335  
68309 Manheim

If you have questions, call Vilseck DSN 476-2886, CIV 09662-83-2886 or Grafenwoehr DSN 475-7214, CIV 09641-83-7214.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Everyone is invited to join the Hohenfels Prayer Shawl Ministry for Creating Comfort with Caring Hands. Seasoned knitters or crocheters, as well as beginners, are all invited to join the all-denomination, faith-based group.

The group will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hilltop Chapel Center for fellowship and fun to create articles, such as shawls, for others in need. Whether coping with bereavement, deployment, hardship, or celebrating the joy of a new baby or marriage, the group will create items for others that will help them feel the love and prayers for them.

The kickoff meeting will be held today, and free on-site child care is provided. For more information call CIV 09472-83-1570 or DSN 09472-83-3576.

### PWOC to hold first meeting after summer break

The Hohenfels Protestant Women of the Chapel's first meeting after the summer break is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center, Bldg. 6. After today's meeting, the group will meet every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. in the same building.

Child care is always provided at no cost to you. The International PWOC theme for the year 2008-2009 is "At the Redeemer's Feet" based on Ruth 4:14-15a. Join the group for study and fellowship this fall as they learn to depend more on Christ and less on themselves or others.

For more information about the Hohenfels PWOC or a PWOC event call the Hilltop Chapel Center at DSN 466-1570.

### Off the Wall

The Department of the Army Entertainment presents Off the Wall. The band will bring their mix of contemporary and R&B to Hohenfels Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in the CAC, Bldg. 40.

The final round of the Operation Rising Star competition will be held from 6-7 p.m. For more information on Off the Wall, visit the band's Web site at [www.otwband.com](http://www.otwband.com).

### Guys Read Book Club

Guys Read is a book club for boys ages 12-16. It will meet monthly on Thursdays at the library at 4-5 p.m. The first Guys Read Book Club will meet at the library tomorrow.

The first book for September is Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card; following the first month, the group will choose the books themselves. We also are looking for an adult male to lead the group. For more information call Nan Barker at DSN 466-1740.

### Thrift Shop Saturday opening

The Thrift Shop will be open with specials running throughout the store. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information call Tracey Norrell Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at DSN 466-2978 or e-mail [Tracey\\_nva@yahoo.com](mailto:Tracey_nva@yahoo.com).

### Framing

Saturday: Doing your own custom framing is a great way to personalize your art and awards while saving money. You will learn how to measure and mat your pictures as well as how to cut and put together frames.

Then finish it off for a professional look every time. \$30 class fee includes supplies to frame a 5"x7" picture. Pre-register and pay at least three days before class. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Garrison to host 9/11 memorial service

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels will host a 9/11 Memorial Service Sept. 11 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Post Chapel to remember victims of the 9/11 terror attacks. All community members are invited to attend.

### Belly dancing class

Sept. 11 to Oct. 16: Start with a healthy aerobic workout. Add the fun of dancing. Spice things up with exotic music, the twirl of silk, and the rhythmic clapping of finger cymbals.

Top it off with a path to rediscovering

one's feminine nature and creative spirit, and you have Belly Dancing for Fitness. Come out and learn the basic movements and one beginner's routine.

This six-week session begins Sept. 11. Classes will be held on Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. at The Zone, Bldg. 150. Six classes are \$24. There must be a minimum of 6 participants registered for the class to take place.

To sign up or for more information call Sports and Fitness at DSN 466-2868/2493.

### USAG Hohenfels 2008 Fall Golf Classic

The USAG Hohenfels 2008 Fall Golf Classic at the Schmidmuehlen Golf Course Sept. 12 finishes an exciting, warm-weather golf season.

Team and registration information: Four person teams (ABCD composition preferred); \$15 entry fee; 25 Euro green fee (green fee will be waived for club members); 7 a.m. check-in; 8 a.m. shotgun start; registration deadline is Sept. 10.

For more information or to register, contact MWR Sports and Fitness at [dlnwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil](mailto:dlnwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil). Register now, only 18 team slots are available.

### Dental assistant program coming again

Apply to be a trained dental assistant. Applications are available for pickup at your local Red Cross office. Application deadline is Sept. 12. Interviews will be held Sept. 18.

Classroom training starts Sept. 22 to Oct. 4. Contact your local Red Cross for an application and more information at DSN 476-1760.

### Basic quilting

Sept. 13: Even if you have no sewing experience you can learn this classic art with all the modern twists. You will make your first small project while learning the basics of rotary cutting, strip piecing, machine quilting and edge binding. These skills can then be applied to future projects that we are happy to help with from start to finish. \$10 class fee plus supplies. Purchase and wash your material before coming to class. You will receive pre-class instructions at time of sign-up. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 2008 U.S. Forces Europe paintball championship

Sept. 18-21: Join the USAG Baumholder ODR in this inaugural paintball event. Championship is free and open to all U.S. ID card holders 18 and older; 5-on-5 competition; up to ten total participants per roster; max of three teams per garrison or base. Team rosters are due no later than Sept. 5 and are available at [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com). Download the roster and e-mail to Werner Graf at [werner.graf@eur.army.mil](mailto:werner.graf@eur.army.mil). For more information call DSN 485-7182.

### Wood shop safety

Sept. 20: In this class you will learn to safely use the machinery in the wood shop. Once you are certified you may come back for help on individual projects. \$10 class fee no pre-sign up required. Wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### KONTAKT Club Hohenfels

For directions to the events or more information call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-4294.

Today: Bowling im Lager um 19 Uhr/ Bowling on Post at 7 p.m.

Friday: Stammtisch beim Inan Pizzeria Adler in Hohenfels um 19 Uhr/Stammtisch at Inan Pizzeria Adler at Hohenfels at 7 p.m.

Sept. 17: Stammtisch beim Josef in Hohenfels um 19 Uhr/Stammtisch at Josef, at Hohenfels at 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Line-Dance im Keltensaal/ RAC 19 Uhr or 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Line-Dance im Keltensaal/ RAC 19 Uhr or 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Kegeln im Rot Kreuz Gebäude Hohenfels 19 Uhr/German Bowling at the Red Cross Building in Hohenfels at 7 p.m.

Sept. 27: Besichtigung der Tropfsteinhöhle in Velburg, Treffpunkt 14:30 am Parkplatz (Kosten Erw. 6 Euro und Kinder 5 Euro für Eintritt und Snack)/ Sight seeing tour at the Velburg Cave, meet at 2:30 p.m. at the parking lot (cost adult 6 Euro and children 5 Euro for entrance and snack. [www.kontakt-hohenfels.com](http://www.kontakt-hohenfels.com).

# THE NEXT ROUND'S ON YOU... GIVE 'EM A PINT!

**Vilseck Community  
Blood Drive  
Sponsored by  
2 SCR  
Sept. 17  
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Memorial Gym,  
Rose Barracks**



**ASBP**  
Armed Services Blood Program



# What’s Happening

## Ansbach Briefs

### Register to vote

The Army’s Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families, and civilians overseas can exercise their right to vote.

USAG Ansbach’s Voting Assistance Program officers are Mohammad Alkadri and Scott Hamilton.

Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application (Standard Form 76).

The form is available at the garrison command group or can be downloaded at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

The Web site also features an automated federal postcard application. Filling out the form not only registers voters for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal, state and local elections. For more, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

### Holiday greetings!

Mark Sept. 13 on your calendar to take advantage of the opportunity to tape a holiday greeting to send back to all of your family in the U.S.

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Team will offer community members a chance to tape video messages to family members back in the U.S., its territories and also downrange if they have loved ones deployed, said Kris Grogan, team chief.

Times and locations of the tapings will be announced once they become available.

For more on the program, call Jim Hughes at DSN 468-7649 or CIV 0981-183-649.

### Illusionist show

The Storck Barracks Chapel hosts illusionist and inspirational speaker Toby Travis Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Illesheim chapel.

There will be a pre-show barbecue at 4 p.m. with free admission, food and music.

Also, there is hair, or a lack of it, on the line. Depending on attendance

numbers from Katterbach and Storck, either Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Yarman or Chaplain (Col.) Gregg Drew will get a haircut.

For more, call the Storck Barracks Chapel at DSN 467-6826 or CIV 09841-83-6826, or the Katterbach Chapel at DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-83-2785.

### VA brief

The Army Career and Alumni Program hosts Veterans Affairs briefs for USAG Ansbach Soldiers and family members on VA benefits and services.

The briefings take place Sept. 24 and Oct. 24. The briefings are open to transitioning Soldiers, their families, and retirees.

For times and locations, call ACAP at 467-3312 or 09802-83-3312.

### Skateboarder visits

Professional skateboarder Shawn Mandoli of Boarder for Christ will visit USAG Ansbach’s skateboard parks Sept. 5-7 to showcase his skills and speak to community members.

Mandoli will perform Friday at 7 p.m. at the Bleidorn Skate Park, Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Storck Barracks Housing Skate Park, Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Katterbach Kaserne Housing Skate Park, and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Ansbach City Skate Park.

The entire community is invited to watch and hear Mandoli.

For more information or for people who need transportation to the events, call Mark Edwards at the USAG Ansbach Religious Support Office at DSN 467-3082 or CIV 09802-83-3082.

### Wild, Wild West Kids Fest

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the Wild, Wild West Kids Fest Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 2-159th Aviation Regiment hangar on Storck Barracks.

MWR officials want kids and parents “to dust off their Western duds and mosey on down for games, grub and goodies for kids of all ages,” according to a publicity flier.

Prizes will be awarded to the family with the best Western outfits.

For more on the event, send an e-mail to [ans-mwr@eur.army.mil](mailto:ans-mwr@eur.army.mil).

### Mixed terrain bike rides

Ansbach MWR hosts 15-km mixed terrain bike rides Monday and Sept. 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. on local bike trails. Katterbach Outdoor Recreation offers bike rentals for people who don’t have their own bikes.

For more, call Sarah Evans at CIV 0151-579-37042.

### Free concert

MWR hosts a free concert featuring contemporary and R&B band Off the Wall Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Storck Barracks Longbow Lounge. Food and beverage sales begin at 7 p.m.

For more, send an e-mail to [ans-mwr@eur.army.mil](mailto:ans-mwr@eur.army.mil).

### ATM moves

Service Credit Union is in the process of moving the automatic teller machine at Barton Barracks near the Burger Bar to the Katterbach Commissary area. The ATM is currently shut down at Barton and will be in operation at the commissary in the near future.

For more, call the credit union at DSN 467-2556 or CIV 09802-8680.

### Poker Run

MWR hosts a 5-km Poker Run and Kids 1-miler Sept. 13 at the Katterbach Fitness Center. The Kids 1-Miler starts at 9 a.m. and the Poke Run starts at 10 a.m. Register for the events at the Katterbach or Bunch Fitness centers no later than Sept. 10.

The run features a card-playing theme where participants collect a card at each kilometer mark—best hand wins.

For more information, call DSN 467-2771 or CIV 09802-83-2771.

### Preschool drama classes

MWR asks parents to open the window to their children’s imaginations with preschool creative drama classes Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. at the Terrace Playhouse in Bleidorn Housing Area.

The classes are parent and children interactive and directed playtimes that give children up to age 5 their first taste of theatre.

For more, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

### Spouse education assistance

The Army Emergency Relief Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program is accepting applications for assistance for Term II college courses now until Sept. 29.

OSEAP is a need-based education assistance program designed to provide spouses residing with active duty Soldiers in overseas commands with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals.

The purpose of the program is to assist spouses in gaining the education required to allow them to qualify for increased occupational opportunities. Active duty military personnel are not eligible.

Financial assistance is awarded up to half the cost of tuition per term based on financial need, as evidenced by income, assets, family size, special financial obligations and circumstances, with a \$580 maximum per academic term. The academic year consists of five terms.

Application deadlines for the terms: Term 2 – Sept. 29; Term 3 – Dec. 22; Term 4 - March 2, 2009; and Term 5 - May 11, 2009.

People can apply online at [http://aer-hq.org/AER\\_Spouse\\_Overseas/Downloads/08-09%20OSEAP%20Description.pdf](http://aer-hq.org/AER_Spouse_Overseas/Downloads/08-09%20OSEAP%20Description.pdf).

For more on the program, call Sarah Tipple, USAG Ansbach AER officer, at DSN 467-2064 or CIV 09802-83-2064.

### Help with a career

The USAG Ansbach Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program provides career development and planning support to all community members.

Employment assistance offered includes: resume writing support, understanding the federal job application process, local national application information, local community jobs and information, educational support services, job searching, walk-in services, appointments and group classes.

The office is located on Katterbach in the ACS building, Bldg. 5817-A, and is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more, call Kimela Dickerson at DSN 467-3272 or CIV 09802-83-3272.

### Early bird shopping

The Ansbach Commissary is now open for early bird shopping. The commissary opens up for shoppers at 9 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

### Routine appointments

The U.S. Army Katterbach Health Clinic will be fully supporting the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade’s upcoming reintegration. Much of the health clinic staff will be focused on reintegration operations, which will limit the availability of appointments.

From the end of August to October, routine and wellness appointments will not be available. The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments for acute care issues.

Urgent and emergent care will continue to be provided by nearby host-nation medical facilities and providers. People with conditions that are not emergencies can call the health clinic to get a referral on the economy.

Patients on chronic medications are advised to get prescriptions refilled before the end of August. People due for Well Woman examinations should call the health clinic before the end of August to schedule the visit.

Families of Soldier’s scheduled to PCS and currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program should get their records screened as soon as possible. Soldiers’ permanent change of station orders cannot be processed until their EFMP screening has been updated.

For more information or to schedule appointments, call the clinic at DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

### Self-Help hours change

The Illesheim Self-Help opening hours have changed.

Operating hours are Mondays-Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 467-4722 or CIV 09841-834722.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### AFCU appreciation day

Andrews Federal Credit Union will host a member appreciation day Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Ledward Barracks. The day promises games, food, financial education and much more.

### Bulk trash

Bulk trash will be collected in Askren Manor, Yorktown, and all leased housing areas Tuesday morning. Please place bulk items out by 7 a.m., but not earlier than Monday night.

### Bowling league begins

An adult mixed handicap bowling league will begin play Thursday night at 6 p.m. at the Kessler Bowling Center. League play will continue through Dec. 18. Teams of three to four people are encouraged to sign up. Call DSN 354-6332 or CIV 09721-96-6332 for more information.

### Outdoor adventures

Outdoor Recreation and the USAG Schweinfurt Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers programs are teaming up to offer bungee jumping fun Saturday. Cost is 100 euro. A high ropes course will also be offered, with a cost of \$10. Call DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-96-8080 for more information on either event.

### Newcomers welcome

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Service Center offers the Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses, or SNAPS, on a monthly basis to help newly-arrived spouses learn about the military and civilian communities of Schweinfurt. The next week-long set of classes begins Monday. Call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 for more information.

### XBOX 360 tournament

Finney Recreation Center, recently named the best recreation center in the Army, will host an XBOX 360 tournament Tuesday. For more information call DSN 353-8476 or CIV 09721-96-8476.

### Community update forum

Got questions? Get answers at the Schweinfurt Community Update Forum Tuesday night beginning at 6 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Schweinfurt

Elementary School. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

### 9/11 remembrance

The USAG Schweinfurt Chaplain’s office will host a 9/11 Remembrance Prayer Breakfast Sept. 11 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. in the Conn Community Club. The community is invited to attend. For more information, call DSN 354-1370 or CIV 09721-96-1370.

### Are you a Rising Star?

Operation Rising Star begins Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at Rohr’s Diner on Ledward Barracks. Are you a Soldier or family member who dreams of being a musician? This could be your shot at earning a professional demo recording session. Must be 18 or older to participate. For more information, call DSN 354-6225 or CIV 09721-96-6225 or visit [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com).

### This One’s For You

The best Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers event in the Army, This One’s For You, is back Sept. 11 from 1 to 7 p.m. at Finney Recreation Center. Come out and enjoy games and live music with your local BOSS representatives. For more information, call DSN 353-8476 or CIV 09721-96-8476.

### Gospel musical

The Schweinfurt Chapel gospel service will host a gospel musical performance Sept. 13 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ledward Chapel. Choirs, musicians, and soloists will perform for the community.

### Super Saturday

Take a few hours off Sept. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and leave the kids to Child & Youth Services. Sign-ups end Saturday, so call Central Registration at DSN 354-6414 or CIV 09721-96-6414 today.

### Chapel Bible studies kick off

Come join Protestant Women of the Chapel Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Ledward Chapel beginning Sept. 10. Free childcare is provided. Enjoy snacks, fellowship and your choice of small group Bible studies. Thursday evenings, beginning Sept. 11, PWOC hosts a ladies Bible study at Ledward Chapel from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For more information on both, call CIV 0170-277-8980.

### PTA meeting

The Schweinfurt Elementary School Parent Teacher Association will hold its first monthly meeting Sept. 10 beginning at 5 p.m. at the school. Food will be available for purchase, and many fun activities are planned. Members and non-members alike are invited to share in the fun.

### Leighton Barracks restricted

Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg is no longer accessible to I.D. card holders. Access is limited to the closure team and authorized personnel, whose primary function is the preparation of the installation for its return to the host nation, and the prevention of theft, vandalism, or dumping on government property.

### Community Bible study in Schweinfurt

September 10 is the beginning of the weekly Wednesday night potluck Bible study from 6 to 8 p.m. at a home in Schweinfurt. Learn “What’s so Amazing about Grace” from the author Philip Yancey. For directions, childcare inquiry, or carpooling, call CIV 0170-277-8980.

### Paintball for free

Outdoor recreation continues to offer free paintball every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soldiers, civilians, and family members 12 and older can partake in paintball for free, including all equipment and 200 paintballs. This is a great opportunity for training and having fun! For more information call Outdoor Recreation DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-968080.

## Bamberg Briefs

### Estates Claim

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of SGT Connolly, Ryan J. of A Company, 173d, STB, in Bamberg, Germany, must contact the Summary Court Martial Officer, Capt. Diane Collver at DSN 314-469-8875, or e-mail at [diane.collver@eur.army.mil](mailto:diane.collver@eur.army.mil).

Mixing business with pleasure on the Internet can lead to identity theft.

- Do not use military e-mail addresses on personal accounts.
- Change online account passwords frequently.
  - Do not use the same password for business & personal accounts.
  - Monitor credit card activity closely.
- Alert your bank to possible fraudulent use.
- Do not click on links or open attachments contained in unsolicited e-mail.

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Family, Protect Your Unit & Community.

Remember, securing our networks takes the efforts of all those connected. Your actions can cause our networks to become vulnerable, or ensure they remain protected.



<https://lassure.usareur.army.mil/>





Renz Du low-crawls under the first obstacle of the IMT course during 2SCR's first Youth Spur Ride Aug. 21 at Vilseck's Memorial Fitness Gym.



## 2SCR kids get taste of Soldier life, outdoor fun during Spur Ride

Story and photos by ALICE ADLER  
Special to the Bavarian News

The children of Vilseck's 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment had some fun, learned something new, and were put through their paces during the regiment's first Youth Spur Ride Aug. 21.

The event was organized by the 2SCR rear detachment Soldiers and held in and around Vilseck's Memorial Fitness Center. The unit turned the sports fields around the fitness center was turned into a venue for a series of events designed to teach the children a little about what their parents do every day in the Army.

The families were grouped together by squadron and the children were taken from one station to another where they learned soldier skills and got to try them out themselves.

Individual Movement Techniques, bandaging, evacuating a casualty, land navigation, and physical training were some of the events the participants rotated through.

In addition to the unit run events, other activities including a ball pit, jumping castle, and food stands run by the Family Readiness Groups. Inside the fitness center stations and tables provided information on the unit's reintegration timeline.

The regiment was not alone in providing information to 2SCR families; Army Community Service redeployment services, the regiment's own Dragoon Foundation, the Army National Guard, AFN radio, and the Vilseck Spouses' Club and also came out to help provide information and help the families have a good time.

The event was timed to coincide with the start of the new school year, giving families who had recently returned from summer vacation in the States a chance to reunite and have some fun.

"It was a good time for everyone," noted Rear Detachment Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Rickard, "We were blessed with good weather."

About 200 children were preregistered, but the actual turnout was a little bit higher.

"We were happy to see all the families make it out," said 2nd Lt. Chad Humphrey, "It looks like everyone had a good time."

The Spur Ride was also provided a chance for the families to learn about the imminent redeployment of their Soldiers from Iraq. Over the next five to six weeks a series of events and information releases will help prepare the families for the return of their loved ones. Information regarding times and locations, as well as assistance with reintegration issues, will be shared with the families.

"What to expect from your spouse, and how to live your life and be like a regular couple again," explained Rickard.

The kids enjoyed participating in the sometimes difficult tasks and learning new skills.

"I liked when you had to crawl," said Jade Clark of the IMT training, "You get to see how fast you are and you get to carry a gun."

The course, run with imitation weapons known as "rubber ducks" was a favorite of the kids who enjoyed running and getting a taste of what the regiment does in Iraq.

"It's like you're really in a war," said Jordan Akalaonu. "I like when they taught us how to duck down – if you stay up you might get shot!" noted 12-year-old Brandon Clarida.

Another element of the course had kids practicing throwing grenades into designed areas.

"I liked to run around and throw the grenade," said Michael Moya. "It's pretty fun."

Two other stations taught the participants how to bandage a wound and evacuate a casu-

alty. "I liked doing the bandages and how they taught you what to do in case of an emergency," said 6-year-old Alexa Moya.

Some of the children enjoyed the chance to test their strength during the PT test. Daryl Shamlee and Roman Walton agreed their favorite part was the 25 yard dash.

"You get to see who was the fastest and who got the fastest time," said Shamlee. "I liked the competition," added Walton. Mariah Feige was pleased with her performance, "I got first place even though I'm used to Florida weather!" She beamed. "I can't believe I got first place!"

Having a venue for the families to get together and talk with one another is an important step in the reintegration process. "It's good to stay in touch," noted Humphrey. Other events are planned in the weeks leading up to the regiment's redeployment.

On Friday and Saturday, 2SCR spouses will try their hand at Soldier skills and earn their spurs during a Spouses' Spur Ride.

"Kids, I ask you to challenge your mothers!" said Rickard of the upcoming event. Other events will include a regimental command information briefing for the families, squadron-level FRG meetings and the fourth in a series of blood drives sponsored by the rear detachment.

The blood drives have been extremely successful, exceeding all expectations of the planners. "It gives us a chance to fight back in our own way," noted Rickard.

At the end of the day, tired and happy kids accepted their certificates and headed home after a fun and successful day. The success of the day was noted by U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Chris Sorenson, "It embodies the pride of 2SCR and everything you are doing back here in support of those forward," he told the families.

## Goho wins songwriting competition

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songwriting contest, taking second place in the inspirational category, and third place in the country music category.

The contest, which was presented by the Dallas Songwriters Association in support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense's "America Supports You" program, was open to amateur songwriters serving in the US military.

The contest, however, was not something Goho told anyone about.

"Being an Army officer is my job," he said. "Being a songwriter is what I do for fun."

As a pediatric dentist, Goho, with a wide smile and witty sense of humor, seems to find fun in all aspects of his life.

He based his country songwriting submission on the idea.

"I knew a lot of songs would be very deep and meaningful," he said. "I thought I'd send in something different and lighthearted."

The country song he submitted is titled, "Hundred Feet Short of Being a Texan." It is a humorous look at living on the wrong side of the Texas state line.

"I'm Army and in the medical corps, so I've spent a lot of time in Texas," he explained. "Texans are very proud to be Texans."

He said he came up with the idea for the song, and many others he has written, through his life experiences and lessons learned.

The song ideas, however, often come to Goho in bits and spurts, leaving him to frantically write on napkins, envelopes, or whatever he has available.

"I have to write it down or I'll forget it," he said. "If I'm lucky, I get the music in my head at the same time. It's like writing a story; sometimes it will just hit and you're writing as fast as you can. It just gushes."

While the father of two finds humor in the fact that his 17-year-old daughter Anne sings his song around the house, he is serious about the message in his music.

"If you listen and it touches you, then I've succeeded," he said.

## Enlisted troops to receive money to offset uniform costs

continued from Page 1

to the existing blue coat, will be made of a wrinkle-resistant material and will have a more "athletic" cut.

Other changes to the uniform include authorization of a combat service identification badge to recognize combat service, overseas service bars authorized on the jacket sleeve for both enlisted Soldiers and officers, the wear of distinctive unit insignia on the shoulder loops of the blue coat for enlisted Soldiers, authorizing paratroopers to wear the black jump boots with the blue ASU, and the decision to transition to a new short sleeve and long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops.

It is also permissible for enlisted Soldiers to wear both overseas service bars and service stripes on the new blue ASU coat. Officers and Soldiers in the grade of corporal and above will additionally wear a gold braid on their slacks to indicate leadership roles.

"That is kind of a right of passage as you transition from being a (junior) enlisted soldier to a noncommissioned officer," Preston said of the gold braid.

New items for the ASU will be available in military clothing sales after July 2009.

Soldiers will be expected to possess the entire uniform by July 2014. The two key components of the uniform, the coat and slacks, are expected to cost around \$140, with modifications bringing the total cost to \$200.

Enlisted Soldiers will receive an increase in their annual uniform allowance to help offset the cost of the uniform.

## GARRISON SNAPSHOTS



Photo by Sgt. Stephen Morgan

**DENTAL DOINGS:** Tori Fyfe, daughter of Sgt. Daniel Fyfe of HHC 2-28 Infantry, is taught proper brushing technique by Nicole Kugler from the Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic. Kugler and Spc. Tina Vennebush were at the Grafenwoehr PX Aug. 18-20, informing parents and children about the importance of good oral hygiene.



Photo by Mary Markos

**MAKING THE SWITCH:** Sgt. Sarah Tate, American Forces Network-Bavaria, transmits live Aug. 28 from the official switchover of the AFN-Bavarian AM transmitter in Vilseck. The 65-meter tall AM antenna and transmitter were erected after the antenna in the Grafenwoehr housing area began to affect consumer electronics. The new transmitter station meets all German and U.S. specifications.



# Dublin

## Visit the land of the ‘Luck of the Irish’

Story and photos by  
**KATIE COWART**  
*Assistant Editor*

When most military families come to Germany, they come with a few “must see” cities on their travel list. Internationally acclaimed cities like London, Paris, and Venice frequently top those lists, but Dublin, deserves a spot on that list, too.

The less frequented Dublin is a very easy city to see and offers attractions for every taste. History buffs will be ecstatic at exploring the countless medieval sites around the city.

Tourists more focused on bring home souvenirs won’t be disappointed, either. Then, of course, there are the brewery tours.

Personally, I like to check out a little bit of each to keep a balanced trip and really get the feel of the city. Since language isn’t really a barrier in Dublin (if you don’t use American slang, the Irish won’t use their slang terms, and you’ll be able to understand everything), it’s easy to find out what’s what and understand the significance of landmarks.

Most of the historical sites are located in the center of the city, near the Temple Bar area. While a particular bar bears that name, the entire district is named after it.

Many colorful, traditional, and tourist-gearred pubs line this area and provide a good resting-stop mid-tour.

The Dublin Castle, founded in 1204, is located near this district along Dame Street. Though normally open to the public, it is still in use today for state functions.

Christ Church Cathedral sits just a little further down the road, one of the two official cathedrals of the Church of Ireland. Construction started on this beautiful church in 1038.

The remnants of the original building can still be seen in the front yard of the church, and the whole of the current building is open to the public for viewing. The crypts contain various burial places, jewels, and the famous cat and rat that were trapped in an organ pipe and mummified.

The other official cathedral is probably what Ireland is most well-known for: St. Patrick’s. Take the time to explore both churches carefully and unrushed. You’ll

find all sorts of surprises in every nook, like Jonathan Swift’s resting place. He was dean of the cathedral for some time and there are several markers to his memory within the church. The largest church in Ireland, it was built in 1191.

While having two official churches was completely unprecedented, the cathedrals have made some interesting history together. The choirs from both churches came together to perform Handel’s Messiah for the first time.

At the other end of Dame Street is Temple College. It is well worth taking a student-led tour to learn some of the intriguing, and sometimes scandalous events that have happened there.

One of the best ways to see Dublin, however, is by one of the city tour buses. Most will take about an hour or hour and a half to loop around the city telling about some of the major attractions, stopping at each to let passengers on and off. You can hop off if a site interests you, and get back on later in the day. This was one of the best methods for reaching the Guinness Brewery.

The brewery is an interesting stop. Plan on spending a few hours here, since the

museum is seven stories high and tours are self-led. Don’t be intimidated by seven floors, though. Halfway up is the tasting lab, where one of the several types of Guinness will be on tap for about a half a glass taste test.

The top floor is the pub, where you can sip the pint included in the price of your admission ticket. The walls are all glass, making it a great city vantage point. What’s a visit to Dublin without a pint of Guinness?

As far as dining experiences go, expect to pay a little more for your dinner than you would in Bavaria. Most of the food should be familiar, though a word to the wise: unless you are very adventurous, stay away from the black pudding, which is made of lard, liver, and blood (all pork products).

After dinner, join the locals for a drink at one of the many pubs. The people are typically very friendly and will tell you the best places to visit and funny stories about life in Dublin. Then take a stroll down the River Liffey, which runs throughout the city to the coast, bringing a clean coastal breeze with it. Just don’t forget your umbrella!



Pay attention to your entire trip, or you’ll miss beautiful and unexpected views like this one of the Irish landscape as seen from the air.



The Christ Church Cathedral, started in 1038, is one of the two official Churches of Ireland. Exploring the church, as well as its crypts, will tell volumes about the history of Dublin.



The Temple Bar lends its name to this entire district in Dublin, right in the heart of the city. Pubs here are colorful, full of tradition, and help a tourist learn about “the real Dublin.”



One of the most fascinating finds in the Christ Church Cathedral crypts is the cat and rat that were trapped and mummified within the church organ pipes.



# Lead prompts playground closure

*Officials eye high content in artificial turf at CDC playground, no health problems reported, community members tested on walk-in basis*

by JIM HUGHES

*Ansbach Command Information Chief*

Garrison officials closed a playground at the Illesheim Child Development Center Annex at Storck Barracks after tests revealed lead levels in portions of its artificial turf were above regulatory guidelines.

Although Center for Disease Control and Army medical officials say they have seen no cases of people getting elevated levels of lead in their blood from artificial turf, Col. Christopher Hickey, USAG Ansbach commander, closed the playground as tests were conducted.

Garrison officials learned of the results of the test Aug. 20 and

explained the situation at a town hall at the Illesheim Theater Aug. 27.

Garrison officials estimate that at least 200 children have used the playground since its construction in October 2007.

No other facilities within USAG Ansbach use the surface in question, said Maj. Steve Samuelson, acting Illesheim Area Support Team director.

“Although no health problems have been connected with artificial turf, we want to exercise the maximum amount of safety here,” said Samuelson at the town hall. “We quarantined it off and we encourage all of you to get testing for your children—and anyone else who has concerns.”

Replacement of the playground is expected in about a month, Samuelson added.

Illesheim Health Clinic officials were also on hand to field questions about the effects of elevated lead levels in people’s blood, and also on the process for getting testing at the clinic.

“There are two things it affects—anemia and neurological effects,” said Maj. Luther Wiest, clinic commander. “I don’t want to minimize the risk, but keep in mind, these things take a long time to occur.”

People can get themselves or their children tested at the Illesheim clinic on a walk-in basis, Wiest said.

“Just come to the front desk, tell them what you’re there for, and they’ll

get you back to the lab,” he said.

Lab hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-3:45 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8-11:15 a.m. Wednesdays.

People can expect results back from their tests in about one to two weeks, Wiest added.

Illesheim’s playground joins facilities in Grafenwoehr, Baumholder and Kaiserslautern as sites where elevated levels of lead were found in artificial turf, according to an Aug. 13 article in the “Stars and Stripes.”

IMCOM-E ordered testing of artificial turf when officials noticed reports coming out of the U.S. about the CDC finding the lead link with artificial turf in New Jersey.

The link was found when officials in New Jersey were conducting routine tests at a metal plant, according to the CDC Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/artificialturf.htm>.

Expanding their tests to a nearby school, elevated lead levels were found on an artificial turf sports field, but the plant was ruled out as the cause.

Further testing revealed that older, well-used artificial turf surfaces tend to emit lead dust that could be ingested by those using the field, according to the CDC.

For more information, call the Illesheim Health Clinic at DSN 467-4512 or CIV 09841-83-4512 or Samuelson at DSN 467-4515 or CIV 09841-83-4515.

# Ansbach mayor visits Storck Barracks, flies simulator

*Hands-on experience gives host nation insider’s guide to understanding post*



**Kenneth Holden, Illesheim Flight Simulator Complex, helps Ansbach Deputy Mayor Thomas Deffner try on a flight helmet complete with night-vision goggles during a visit to Storck Barracks by Ansbach Mayor Carda Seidel, Deffner and city legal adviser Rainer Stache Aug. 19.**

Story and photo by JIM HUGHES

*Ansbach Command Information Chief*

There’s nothing like hands-on experience to get a point across.

USAG Ansbach and the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade hosted Ansbach Mayor Carda Seidel and two other city officials Aug. 19 to tour Storck Barracks and learn about flying operations in an around their city, and take an Apache and a Blackhawk out for a spin.

The spins were, of course, within the safe confines of the Illesheim Flight Simulator Flight Complex, but the point was well made and helped city officials understand what Ansbach pilots deal with every day, Seidel said.

“I enjoyed my time here very well—flying the helicopters was an adventure,” the mayor said of her Apache and Blackhawk simulator flights. “This visit gave me more respect for what the people here do. I know we have some problems in the city with helicopters (noise) and I can also see that the pilots have some problems. I see both sides.”

Military and flight simulator officials briefed the mayor, Deputy Mayor Thomas Deffner and their legal adviser, Rainer Stache, on flight routes and times, and emphasized the necessity of training with night vision goggles in order for pilots to stay proficient, said Frauke Davis, garrison public affairs officer.

“Since the nights in June are extremely short, we must train until 2 a.m. and cannot shut down at 11 p.m. as the city has asked us to do

in the past,” she said. “We tried to demonstrate with the simulator what our pilots do and show her from the air the Katterbach approach. We also stressed how much noise we avoid by using the simulator versus actual helicopter flights.”

Mission accomplished, said Lt. Col. Guy Zero, 12th CAB rear detachment commander.

“I thought the visit today was very positive—a good exchange between the mayor, some of her senior staff, and the 12th CAB,” he said.

“They left with a very good impression of what the simulator does for us in terms of training, and keeping and reducing the amount of aircraft hours flown in and around the German economy.”

These types of visit are important to flight operations, Zero added.

“Maintaining that open line of communication and dialogue helps all parties understand issues that they may be dealing with within their constituencies,” he said. “By having a strong positive relationship, we can then deal with issues before they become problems.”

Seidel agreed, adding she would like to see a lot of interaction between the American military community and her city, and also sent a message out the people in the USAG Ansbach community.

“We welcome you here and we want you to have a good life here at Ansbach,” she said. “We also want to have more contact with you, so perhaps we can meet at sporting events or things like that. Interaction is important.”

# Medical town hall preps Katterbach for 12th CAB reintegration

by JIM HUGHES

*Ansbach Command Information Chief*

Soldiers returning home at Ansbach from 15-month deployments to Iraq means many happy reunions with family members, but it also creates some challenges for the Katterbach Health Clinic staff that helps reintegrate them, and sees to their and their families’ medical needs.

And while this will mean some reduction of services on key days during reintegration in September, the good news is the medical folks within USAG Ansbach are committed to easing the pain as much as possible, said Maj. Christopher Christon, commander of the Katterbach Health Clinic.

As Soldiers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade return home from deployment, they immediately enter into a seven-day reintegration process—Day 2 is the primary medical day during that process, said Christon during a town hall Aug. 14 held to explain the effects reintegration will have on the clinic and its patients.

“So, depending on when the flights come in and also how many flights come in, during those Day 2s the clinic will be really busy,” he said. “We’ll get in hundreds of Soldiers when a flight comes in, so doctors who would normally be seeing patients for appointments will be busy with reintegration.”

The days can’t be predicted, Christon said,

because no one knows the days the flights will come in or even how many flights there will be—which will drive how many Day 2s there are.

But it isn’t like the clinic will shut down to family members and other patients during September, he added.

“We’ll always have at least two doctors seeing patients,” he said. “During days that are not Day 2, we’ll have seven providers available, so our access to routine appointments on those days, depending on how sick people are, will be good during those other 22 days.”

On Day 2s, Christon said the clinic staff will have to do a “triage” and either refer people to be seen downtown if they need to be seen that day, try to work them into the clinic, or, if it’s not serious, ask people to come in the next day.

“All 73 of the staff at the Katterbach Health Clinic—including behavior health services, social work services, as well as the staff at the dental clinic—have devoted our lives to our patients’ health care,” Christon said. “We want them to

understand that we want the best that we can get for them. We want them to be treated like we want our moms and our spouses treated—they’re our family and that is what our goal is.”

Christon said he understands they don’t always achieve that goal.

“When we fail to meet that standard we set for ourselves, I need to know about it so I can fix it,” he said. “We work hard every day for them, but we are human and we do make mistakes, and when we do we want to make right on those mistakes.”

He encouraged patients to use the Interactive Customer Evaluation system on the Ansbach Web page and to fill out the Army provider level satisfaction letter that comes to patients in the mail.

“It is worth the time to fill them out,” Christon said. “I read every single comment and I share it with the staff—negative and positive—and we make decisions based on them.”

The decisions are made with one goal in mind: giving patients the best health care the

**“We want them to be treated like we want our moms and our spouses treated — they’re our family and that’s what our goal is.”**

**Maj. Christopher Christon**  
Commander, Katterbach Health Clinic

clinic can provide with the resources it has, Christon said.

Host nation providers where patients are referred to have similar goals, Christon said.

“I’ve gone there, I’ve talked to them, I’ve seen their facilities, and they’ve been here,” he said. “We have a great rapport and they want the same thing—they want our patients to be healthy and they’re dedicated to health care.”

But he admits there are some cultural differences.

“They’re less concerned about privacy in many areas than we are,” he said. “So, maybe bring something to wear or some English periodicals.

“They care about our patients. When I look them in the eyes I can tell it is from their heart when they say, ‘We care about these guys and we want to take care of them,’” he said.

Some of the clinic’s challenges might carry over past reintegration, he said.

“When Soldiers come back, you’ll see an increase in appointments, you’ll see follow-ups, orthopedics appointments—we’ll have to balance it out,” Christon said. “Retirees might see an impact also.”

The clinic staff will constantly triage, constantly prioritize, and constantly do the best it can with what it has, he added.

“We’re here for the patients—we love them,” he said.



# Gunslingers, Professionals return to Storck Barracks to hero’s welcome

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR.  
*Bavarian News*

The wait is finally over for many Storck Barracks families.

After 15 months in Iraq, Soldiers of the 2nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment and the 412th Aviation Support Battalion stationed in Illesheim have returned to their Army home at USAG Ansbach.

The last of the Illesheim homecomings took place Aug. 23 when about 100 Soldiers marched into Hangar 2 to a hero’s welcome and loud cheers from hundreds of family members, co-workers and well-wishers.

“The Soldiers are very excited—it is a great day to redeploy. They are coming back with their heads held high knowing that they have done a great job and are glad to be back,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Christensen, commander of the 2-159th Gunslingers.

The commander says that he is very pleased with his troops’ work in the region, resulting in what he considers a successful mission.

“I am proud of the Soldiers in this unit. It is not just about the pilots in this battalion and the job that they did supporting the Soldiers on the ground,” Christensen said. “They did a great job, but it is the whole team that came together—the Soldiers that fueled and fixed the aircraft, all the unsung heroes behind the scenes. I am very proud of their accomplishments and their work.”

Christensen emphasized the unit’s record of safety while deployed and noted there were no fatal incidents or accidents.

“The most important thing for us is to feel that we did our job while maintaining a great record of safety with no accidents downrange—something that is attributable to the junior non-commissioned officers who took great care of our young Soldiers,” he said. “We did not lose any Soldiers and brought back every last one—mission accomplished.”

Staff. Sgt. Johnny Bunch, safety NCO for the 2-159th, said he is happy to be home.

“From a safety aspect, leaving Germany from the cold weather and going into the heat presents problems, but with safety being a top priority in the Army, we did great going into the heat and



Emily Gourgues greets her husband, Capt. Mike Gourgues, with a kiss upon his return at a 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment welcome home ceremony Aug. 23 after a 15-month rotation in Iraq.

we did outstanding overall with zero casualties,” he said.

“It feels really good to be back and back safe,” he continued. “We went, we knocked the door down, we rebuilt the house, we said goodbye and we are back home safely.”

The unit was a key part in the fight against Al-Qaeda in Iraq, flying over 23,000 flight hours with the primary mission being to support the

Soldier on the ground, Christensen said.

“Wherever Al-Qaeda was, this battalion was deployed against Al-Qaeda,” he said.

Christensen praised the families and Soldiers on the home front for supporting the troops.

“They came together and formed tight bonds, as well as all the great things the family readiness groups did to support the mission back home,” he said. “They were our strength that allowed us

to focus on the mission.”

Candy Book, one of many spouses anxiously awaiting her husband’s return Aug. 23, was part of that overall home-base support group.

“I am elated—it is finally my turn! I have been here every time with each group that returns. I am anxious—I want my hug and my kiss!”

But there are still many Soldiers deployed to Iraq—families awaiting homecomings in September for the Katterbach area—and also families in Illesheim who are just now beginning their challenging separations from their loved ones.

The 3-159th Aviation Regiment from Storck, the 2-159th’s sister unit, just took over the duties vacated by Christensen’s crew.

“The changeover with our sister battalion went fantastic,” Christensen said. “It is definitely a great thing when you can conduct a relief in place with your sister battalion. We know all of them and they know all of us. We use the same operating procedures and we were trained the same way. It made for a very, very smooth relief place and redeployment for us.”

And the commander added that he expects the 3-159th to experience success during their time in Iraq.

“We feel that our legacy is not just everything that we did up until the day that we handed over the mission,” he said. “Our legacy is how well we handed over that mission and that is measured by how well third battalion does in Iraq. They are a great battalion—3-159th will do very well in Iraq.”

Soldiers from the 2-159th and 412th will undergo the seven half-day reintegration process, begin some well deserved block leave for the battalion and, upon return, the focus shifts on the equipment that has been back home.

“Our focus is to get the equipment maintained and our Soldiers trained up and ready for the next mission. I do not know when that will be, but we’ll be ready,” said Christensen.

An advance team of about 50 Soldiers from the 412th ASB Professionals stationed at Shipton Kaserne also returned home Aug. 23, giving a glimpse of what is in store for the Ansbach area as the rest of the 12th CAB begins its journey back home.

# Ready Army aims to prepare community for crises

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR.  
*Bavarian News*

USAG Ansbach recently announced the local launch of the Ready Army campaign, an emergency preparedness and awareness program aimed at Army Soldiers, their families, Army civilians and contractors to prepare them for all hazards, manmade or natural, and encourage them to: Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

The Army-wide campaign, developed by Headquarters Department of the Army, Army Emergency Management, expands upon the national Ready campaign from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Ad Council.

Official kickoff of the Army-wide campaign took place Sept. 1 during National Preparedness Month, according to the Army Emergency Management Program’s AKO Web site (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>).

The program is all about education and awareness, said Elijah Ham, USAG Ansbach’s Army Ready program manager, adding that, “now is the time to start preparing and planning with your family for all types of disasters.”

“Readiness begins with awareness,” said Ham. “This program is designed for everyone—all community citizens—not just Soldiers. We all need to be well-informed and prepared for emergencies.”

Based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s ‘Ready’ model, Ham said the Department of the Army realized there was nothing in place specifically for the military and the Army’s program basically piggybacks on their design.

“What we want to do is to have a way for our people to sustain

themselves with the basic essentials—an emergency kit. This would include a communication plan and a meeting place. Stay informed for the types of incidents that can happen in your area (high winds, cold temperatures, heavy snow storms, floods, etc.),” said Ham.

“The kits can be made at home with your everyday supplies,” he said.

Suggested contents of emergency kits include: a 72-hour supply of bottled water per family member, medications, diapers, non-perishable foods, canned goods, pet food; flashlights, batteries, battery-operated radio, foreign currency, passports and other important documents.

“Anything a family may need to sustain itself for 72 hours.”

Furthermore, he suggested learning about host-nation electronic, grocery and supply type stores, and to get involved and informed like visiting the Army Knowledge Online Ready Army Web site for further information and ideas to help you and your family in case of disaster or emergency.

In addition, Ham said, during the campaign, information brochures for families will be given out on other items for emergency kits.

Ham said that the print ad campaign has already begun, so community members should already be seeing Ready Army campaign posters around the community.

During the second and third weeks, as awareness increases, Ham will be on hand at various locations throughout the community—like the commissary and post exchange facilities—handing out brochures and other materials and talking to members about the importance of the program.

Ham says to expect to see more of the program with information booths at upcoming community events.

“The most important thing is to get the word out by simply talking to people about it and explaining what it is,” he said. “It is a great program that the Army has come up with that empowers families.”

He also said that he will ask individual unit commanders to lead by example--create their kits, bring them to work and show them to Soldiers.

“Make it a training event and

coordinate with unit safety desks,” Ham said.

“You have to do something, even if you do not have a fully-functional emergency kit or plan—have something. Even a little bit can go a long way--it’s what the family can do for themselves,” he said. “Be prepared, because anything can happen.”

Soldiers take care of Soldiers, Army Families take care of Army

Families, and in the Army, “We take care of each other,” Ham said.

“It is this underlying compassion that creates an attitude that we’re in this together.”

Instituting emergency management preparedness and education programs like Ready Army helps prepare the entire Army community--and a prepared community saves lives, he said.

GET A KIT ► MAKE A PLAN ► BE INFORMED  
For a complete Family Emergency Plan visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor (Name & Phone Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Out-of-town contact (Name & Phone Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Family meeting place outside neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Phone Numbers (Emergency, Fire, School, Animal Shelter, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_



# Library wins award third straight time

by **TRECIA A. WILSON**  
*Bavarian News*

The third time is the charm is the usual expression which refers to finally accomplishing something on the third try, but Karen Lazzeri has won three times and can honestly say that the third time winning is more charming than the first.

Why? Because it's great to win the first time, but to continue winning best Morale Welfare and Recreation Library for a medium-size post is a real challenge.

Lazzeri and her staff at the Bamberg Community Library have won the MWR Library for a medium-sized post in both the European region and Army-wide for the last three years.

And the award is not given to just any library. In order to receive it Lazzeri had to show documentation of all the events and their resulting benefits to the judges.

Lazzeri says she was always a library rat. A shy youth, she always went to the library because she felt safe there. Obviously that turned into a lifetime of love for the library and for books, but today Lazzeri doesn't feel a library should be only about the books.

It should still be the place she felt it was: a safe haven for those who want to hang out and relax, read a book, surf the Internet, meet with friends. It should be the place everyone wants to go to. But she's not the typical librarian who shushes you if you get a little too loud. She's a very active person and knows activity often begets noise.

In order to turn the library into the place where everyone wants to be, Lazzeri and her staff are constantly searching for ways to draw them in. For example, last year they began "Operation Scrap Book Support", an event that brings families together at the library to create scrapbooks to send loved ones downrange.

Another major part of Lazzeri's success comes from her efforts to partner with other MWR departments as well as other base programs. By partnering with other groups like the theater and school age services the library increases the number of participants.

Other things they do involve supporting our Warrior Transition Unit. Every month they get together and supply lunch for the WTU Soldiers and have some kind of activity to get the Soldiers active. The activity one month might be a tour off post, while another might be lunch at the library with a speaker brought in to discuss medical issues they have.

Every month it changes, but the goal is always to provide Soldiers and their families with resources and information.

As technology has advanced, the ways people access books and information has advanced as well. For years they have been available via audiotapes and now they are on CDs and via computer audio files. As a result of these advances libraries have to choose. Do they stay with the traditional "books" and limit what they provide to the customer or do they grow with technology and become part of the electronic age.

Lazzeri and her staff—Wilson Delahoz, Willie Gore, Andrea Wittkamp, and Leonard Kuplinski—believe whole-heartedly that moving forward is the only way the library can succeed. In keeping with that belief, they have embraced technology in some very non-traditional ways for a library.

The Bamberg Library has the usual book shelves throughout, but in addition to those books there are DVDs, audio books and video games.

Once there, Lazzeri says, they will start browsing and before you know it, they will find something, a book or a video, on a subject they are interested in. Visitors can also request items they can't find.



Photo by Jocelyn Bright-Smith

**Award winning librarian, Karen Lazzeri holds up bugs created by children that attended the 2008 Summer Reading Program. The bugs were used to decorate Lazzeri's own Volkswagen "super bug" on the final day of the "Catch the Reading Bug" program.**

## Formerly deaf, Soldier reenlists in Iraq

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. KEITH M. ANDERSON**  
*16th SB Public Affairs*

When he was 3 years old, Walter Ashcraft got tonsillitis. The infection spread to his ears, and ate holes in his eardrums.

He lost his hearing and underwent eight surgeries, along with speech therapy classes to learn to speak. Ashcraft was deaf until age 8.

The 22-year-old sergeant from Tucumcari, N.M., said teachers thought he was behind growing up because he couldn't hear well and spoke with a lisp.

"It got to the point they thought I was mentally retarded," Ashcraft said.

Ashcraft, a network systems operator and maintainer, Bravo Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, reenlisted in front of brigade headquarters at COB Q-West Aug. 15, his second reenlistment in "the desert," and another hurdle overcome for the resilient Soldier.

"Life is a like riding a bicycle," Ashcraft said, paraphrasing Albert



**Sgt. Walter Ashcraft, a network systems operator and maintainer, Bravo Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, reenlists in front of brigade headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Aug. 15.**

Einstein. "In order to stay up, you have to keep moving forward."

Although he had a high grade-point-average in high school, getting in the Army was difficult, because he still had significant hearing-loss.

The outgoing, 6-foot 7-inch Soldier faced another obstacle after his first marriage failed during his first deployment. But he kept moving forward, in his words. He remarried, and now has an eight-month-old

daughter, Jade.

Ashcraft said his wife, Lindsay Buffalohead-Ashcraft, a Native American Navajo, supports his decision to reenlist.

"She said that if that's what I wanted to do, she'd support it," he said. "If she had her choice, though, I'd be at home all the time."

Ashcraft was described as essential to the organization by his co-workers and leaders.

"He's truly an outstanding Soldier and he's an asset to the brigade," said Sgt. 1st Class Delia Villa, joint node network platoon sergeant, Bravo Co. "He has the makings of a great future leader."

Ashcraft was grateful for his time in the service, and said the Army is a good career choice.

"I think people should join because it brings character," Ashcraft said. "It lets people know who they really are. And it is an opportunity to progress, to get out in the world and experience it."

Ashcraft's reenlistment was part of the first reenlistment ceremony for the sustainment brigade from Bamberg, Germany, since arriving in Iraq, July 26.

## Child care now offered while you work out

by **TRECIA A. WILSON**  
*Bavarian News*

It's been a long time coming. You've asked for it over and over, and you are finally getting it—child care while you work out.

How? When? Where? Who? Here are all the facts you need to hit the treadmill as soon as the new child care service becomes available.

Thanks to Child and Youth Services, you can now squeeze in that one-hour workout while your child is nearby and in the hands of a capable, certified care provider.

Child care will be available 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. in one hour increments. The one-hour sessions begin at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

The providers are supplied by CYS, not the fitness facility and can accommodate up to five infants and 12 preschool children per hour.

The four caregivers will engage the children in age-appropriate activities, and children will be divided into two age groups—infant and toddler/preschool.

There will be no food distributed, and there is no water source, so caregivers will not change diapers. If potty trained children in care need to use the restroom, two providers will escort the child downstairs to the restroom.

Anyone interested in using the service must be enrolled in the CYS program and fill out a one-page contract that stipulates the hourly care rules. Contracts are available at the Family Child Care office.

The cost for childcare is \$4 per hour. Spouses of deployed Soldiers are offered free childcare (or a predetermined reduced rate) if they are registered with CYS Central Registration.

Prepaid cards can be purchased at Central Registration in 20-hour increments.

For more information, call Central Registration at CIV 0951-300-8035.

## VTC, Soldier expertise allows family to attend promotion

Story and photo by  
**Capt. DAX PUMMILL**  
*54th Engineer Battalion*

Task Force Dagger took full advantage of the mass array of communication assets available to today's modern Army.

On July 2, Capt. Anthony Bonnes, a Task Force Dagger Soldier serving as liaison officer on the 10th Mountain Division staff, tapped into technology that allowed his wife—thousands of miles away in Germany—to watch his promotion live via video teleconference.

Bonnes specifically asked that his promotion be a live event in order to allow wife Madeleine and stepson Tobias to join the Dagger Soldiers in celebrating the special event.

As with all forms of technology, the event had its complications.

Trying to connect with Bamberg through a remote site in the United States presented several problems. The

first attempts to connect resulted in either picture or sound only. The signal officer deftly earned his pay while working with the mix of advanced technology and less than perfectly designed infrastructures.

Bonnes ensured that all of the equipment was connected properly, that the satellite dishes were properly aligned, and the proper sequences were followed during the startup of the teleconference.

After all the connections were made properly and there was a successful communications check conducted, Task Force Dagger promoted one of their officers to the rank of Captain. Maj. Kevin Balisky, Task Force Dagger's Executive Officer, and 1st Sgt. Shane Masters, Bonnes' previous Platoon Sergeant, gathered in the conference room with multiple other members of the Task Force for this occasion.

The process took several tries to get all the variables correct, but the



end result was that a U.S. Army officer had his family present for a milestone event in his life despite the continental divide.

Excited at getting to see her

husband promoted, Madeleine said, "I was really upset at first because I knew I would not get to see him promoted again for at least seven years. It was really special."

**1st Lt. Anthony Bonnes talks to wife Madeleine and stepson Tobias while waiting for his promotion ceremony to begin.**



# SES, units win 2008 partnership award

by MARK HEETER

*Schweinfurt Command Information Chief*

Make no mistake about it: these are no ordinary wooden pigs. Flat Wilbur and Schweinella have been to all corners of Iraq and Afghanistan, thanks to a special partnership.

“(Schweinella) made it to every single combat outpost and FOB that we had,” said Capt. John Opladen, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment rear detachment commander, referring to the flat, wooden pig-shaped mascot that traveled with the unit to Afghanistan.

“For the unit, the guys really took to it,” Opladen said.

Schweinfurt Elementary School, the 172nd Infantry Brigade, and 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry have been recognized with a 2008 Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award, presented by the Military Child Education Coalition.

The award, presented annually, “encourages and applauds the outstanding partnerships that exist between military institutions and school districts and brings special recognition to those partnerships that demonstrate General Taylor’s long-held belief that ‘goodness happens at the local level,’” according to the official announcement of the 2008 award winners.

As the deployment cycle in Schweinfurt continues and Soldiers come and go through the community, preparing, deploying, and re-setting,

one constant remains: a solid relationship between the units and the schools.

Soldiers would periodically send pictures of themselves with the mascots— Flat Wilbur earned his combat patch in Iraq with the Blackhawk Brigade— back to the schools.

“They feel that they know what’s happening over there, because they see these pictures coming back. They’re in touch with their parents,” said Wilma Holt, SES principal.

“Once they get involved, the Soldiers really enjoy it. And they understand that aspect of being of service in the community,” said Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, commander of Task Force Shield, the Blackhawk Brigade rear detachment. “So it becomes rewarding for the Soldiers also.”

Children also get to learn about what their moms and dads do for a living in a unique way, according to Stetson and Holt.

“I think the benefit to the kids is a different learning environment ... they learn about military in a positive manner,” Stetson said. “And the reward for the Soldiers is they got to be part of something that contributed to the kids’ education.”

Details for a welcome home ceremony for Schweinella are in the works, while Flat Wilbur is probably going through pre-deployment processing right now.

The Blackhawk Brigade is expected to head back to Iraq in the fall.



Photo by Sandra Wilson

**Flat Wilbur makes his triumphant return to Schweinfurt Elementary School with a fully-outfitted detachment from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery. The school was recognized for its excellence in partnership activities with both the 172nd Infantry Brigade and the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry in Schweinfurt.**

## Education center offers resources, planning help

by KIMBERLY GEARHART

*Bavarian News*

As summer rapidly comes to a close, the school year begins—for both children and parents/adult learners.

If you’re one of many adult community members considering returning to school, living in a military community overseas does not have to impede your desire to pursue a college education.

In fact, there are many resources available to family members and civilians living and working in Schweinfurt.

Education centers, centralized information and assistance centers which cater to adult and military students, are well staffed.

“We are here to help Soldiers and family members plan and achieve their educational

**“We are here to help Soldiers and family members plan and achieve their educational goals.”**

**Jamie Reilly**

Schweinfurt education services officer

goals,” said Jamie Reilly, Schweinfurt education services officer.

Education centers maintain libraries of information regarding college course offerings, financial aid options, and degree plans specific to many institutions.

In Schweinfurt, centers on Conn and Ledward host field representatives from the University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College. Both colleges have a history of serving military learners, offering a wide range of online and face-to-face courses, said Reilly.

Financial aid for college is a concern for many

adults who sometimes mistakenly believe aid is available only for high school seniors.

“There are a number of types of financial aid available. Federal loans, Pell grants, scholarships, the Army Emergency Relief fund ... The Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club even offers a scholarship just for Schweinfurt community members,” said Andrew Lang, UMUC field representative working in the Ledward Education Center.

The first step to securing financial aid in most cases is submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the FAFSA.

Many scholarships and grants use the FAFSA information to process or determine eligibility, Lang said.

“And although there is a FAFSA processing deadline of July 1 for guaranteed fall aid, applications are accepted whenever they come,” he added.

The FAFSA application can be completed and submitted online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Those without Internet access at home can visit the Army Learning Center, located between the Ledward Education Center and Army Community Service Center, which also has several Internet-capable computers available for use.

“You can even do your homework online” once you’re enrolled, said Rick Kirby, who oversees the ALC on Ledward.

For more information, contact your local education center.

## Schools open arms to parents, too

Story and photo by MARK HEETER

*Schweinfurt Command Information Chief*

School bells began ringing again through the halls of local schools Aug. 25, calling students back to the fountain of knowledge.

With the beginning of another school year, parents are encouraged to answer a different call: getting involved in their kids’ education and activities.

“You can tell by looking at

(children) if the parent is involved. The kids want to get involved,” said Teresa Duncan, president of the Schweinfurt Elementary School Parent Teacher Association.

The differences can be “huge,” Duncan said.

“Parental involvement is so important,” said Beverly Erdmann, SES assistant principal, adding that parents and teachers have a common goal.

“We work on behalf of the child,” she said.

One popular method of igniting the interaction is with open houses, according to Damon McGibboney, USAG Schweinfurt school liaison officer. Each school will host one in the next few weeks, he said.

“This will give parents the opportunity to go into the school in a non-school setting. It’s an open area; the classrooms are going to be open with the teachers,” McGibboney said.

“It’s more of a casual setting to allow parents to interact with the teachers,” he said.

The open house schedule is: Schweinfurt Elementary School, tomorrow, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Schweinfurt Middle School, Sept. 11, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; and Bamberg High School hosted one Aug. 28.

The latter is especially important because of the new relationship, McGibboney said.

“We’re looking forward to having Bamberg with us this year. We’re excited about it. Change is always on the horizon in the Army,” McGibboney said.

Parents have another avenue toward being involved in their children’s education: volunteering.

“They’re always looking for someone to do something. There’s plenty of opportunities to volunteer,” McGibboney said. Interested parties can feel free to contact the schools, he said.

“We welcome them at any time,” Erdmann said.

## SMS prepares students, parents for school year

by KIMBERLY GEARHART

*Bavarian News*

New sixth-graders and their parents got a first look at Schweinfurt Middle School Aug. 20, meeting the principal, school counselor, and student leadership during an hour-long orientation and school tour.

The orientation intended to make parents familiar with school principles and procedures, as well as detail the schedule for the first day of school.

“Parents are welcome to come with their children on the first day of school, but you probably don’t want to stay all day. You’ve already been to middle school,” joked school counselor Fred Conrad. The first day of school can be nerve-wracking, he acknowledged, but even more so when several extra people are thrown into the mix.

“The mission of our school is to serve you,” said Principal George Carpenter. “We will offer quality education to prepare students with the skills they will need to live in the 21st century.”

Working to strengthen foundation skills—such as math and reading comprehension—is critical for SMS students, according to math and science teacher Dan Wilson.

“We want the kids to come ready to learn,” he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Linda Sanborn, SMS educational

technologist.

“Students are encouraged to experiment and see how these skills apply in life or work situations,” she said. “Learning is a lifelong pursuit.”

With the change from elementary to middle school comes a change in scheduling as well. SMS operates on what is known as “block scheduling,” with students attending half of their classes per day on alternating days, referred to as “A” and “B” days.

Students will be provided with a planner, which they are expected to carry at all times and use to keep track of their lessons and daily schedules. The planner is also used as a hall pass. Sixth grade teachers help new students become accustomed to using them, Conrad said.

“But it is vitally important that you as a parent use the planner as a guide as well,” he added, noting that every student should have some sort of homework every day.

Soon, parents will be able to track student progress, grades, and missed assignments via an online system known as GradeSpeed, Carpenter said. Once in place, parents will be offered the opportunity to sign up to use the system.

“We’re excited to start the new school year and see the new student population. We may have smaller classes this year, but that’s a wonderful experience, both for the teacher and the students,” Sanborn said.



**Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, speaks to teachers at their “welcome back” breakfast Aug. 20.**



# Rear detachment training in full swing

## 172nd Task Force Shield to activate tomorrow

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
*Bavarian News*

It's a familiar sight in Schweinfurt: buses line up in front of the battalions; Soldiers lug duffle bags and body armor, all while embarking and disembarking on trips to Grafenwoehr or Hohenfels training areas.

This is especially significant for deploying units, like the 172nd Infantry "Blackhawk" Brigade (Separate) who is prepping for deployment later this year.

No less important to Blackhawk battle-readiness is the training and preparation of a robust rear detachment command.

Enter Lt. Col. Eric Stetson and Task Force Shield.

"We will officially activate on the fourth and fifth of September," Stetson said, noting the need for two separate rear detachment teams, necessitated by the brigade's split footprint in Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt.

Shield's overall command falls to Stetson, who will also oversee the day-to-day operations of Team Grafenwoehr.

"A deputy commander—yet to be named—will maintain a small staff here to assist the battalion Delta companies and assist in command and control for Task Force Shield," Stetson said.

Nominations for the deputy commander are underway, but other Shield cadre have been identified, and are in training.

"Our first official training function was all the way back in April. We've been putting the cadre through specific training courses ever since," Stetson said.

He went on to note that the task of training the rear-detachment is complicated by the fact that the remainder of the brigade is currently away for training.

"While they are down in Grafenwoehr, or on block leave, the rear-D is back here taking

care of family and Soldier issues, in addition to going through training to prepare them for the upcoming deployment," Stetson added.

Luckily for the rear-D Soldiers, there are several helping agencies throughout the two garrisons that have experience with deployed communities. As part of their training, TF Shield cadre visit the various agencies in their area and are introduced to the key community players.

Army Community Service and the Red Cross are two agencies heavily involved with supporting rear-detachment commands.

"We have the experience because we've been there before," said Cheryl Dean, Schweinfurt American Red Cross station manager. Dean and her Grafenwoehr counterpart, Jason Marshall, have both served deployed communities before and have both been deployed in their jobs.

"For the last deployment, I was in Baghdad and he was in Balad," Dean said.

TF Shield will not hurt for experience within its ranks, either. Cadre selection is exclusive, and every assigned Soldier has been hand-selected for the task.

"We try to select a person who has been to combat, is familiar with (their community), demonstrates maturity of judgment, and is a 'can-do' kind of person," Stetson said, acknowledging that rear-D operations often have a reputation for being a place to stick people who cannot deploy.

"Sometimes they are non-deployable, but if they cannot fulfill the role, they are not in a cadre position. It is painful for the command to leave these people behind, because they would have otherwise been a great asset downrange," he said.

Over the past few weeks, TF Shield cadre participated in rehearsals to prepare for deployment-related emergencies such as injury and casualty notifications.

"We will continue to train and prepare up until the brigade deploys, and beyond," Stetson said.



Photo by Lindsey Cole

**Lt. Col. Steven Hite (left) hands Capt. David Evetts the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Delta Company guidon under the watchful eye of 1st Sgt. Daron Curry (right). Evetts and Curry will lead the 1-77 FA battalion rear-detachment, under the operational command of Lt. Col. Eric Stetson and Task Force Shield.**

# ACS lending a useful hand in daily essentials

Story and photo by  
**SANDRA WILSON**  
*Bavarian News*

A pot of hot coffee in the morning, some reheated leftover pizza, and cool air blowing during the waning summer warmth makes for a good day's start for many people.

But those things are difficult to enjoy without a coffee pot, a microwave, and a fan. With military families in constant transit and household goods often in transit as well, the Army Community Service's Lending Closet helps provide such creature comforts.

The Lending Closet is available to all incoming and outgoing service members and their and their families, providing everything from kitchen supplies to baby furniture on a short term loan basis.

"The Lending Closet works extremely well and is heavily used," said Schweinfurt ACS Director Hal Snyder.

Despite the service being heavily used, everyone is not aware the Closet is available.

"When I started in the military, I didn't even know this existed," said Ilbaisa Mella, relocation program assistant at ACS.

Elizabeth Capellan, central intake and relocation readiness coordinator at ACS, said her and her husband bought their missing appliances and utensils when they arrived at his duty station, discovering the Lending Closet only after they had made the purchases.

"It gets expensive eating out all the time," said Sgt. Larry Willis of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Spending all that money upon arrival to buy living essentials, or eating out because you don't have any, is not needed when such a resource is available. Even living without conveniences before departing to a new duty station is not necessary. If your household goods have left without you, the Lending Closet is open for temporary borrowing.

The current lending time is up to 60 days, but Capellan said extensions are available if an individual has still not received their household goods.

"We have incoming and outgoing Soldiers and families that need to use the lending closet. (Users) can help out their fellow Soldiers by bringing (the items) back," said Beate Williams, relocation readiness manager.

When items are returned, they are inspected to ensure proper working order for the next user. The most popularly checked-out item—the microwave—as well as all the other appliances are continually maintained and repaired or replaced as needed.

Soldiers and families can also check-out a variety of dishes, silverware, cooking and baking dishes, utensils, and baby accessories.

During July, 363 Soldiers and families came through ACS on their way out of Schweinfurt, and 150 new families arrived asking for the service.

"We're working on improving our inventory," Snyder said, adding that the main task now is to get the word out that the lending service is available.

For more information about how you can borrow, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.



**Sgt. Larry Willis selects the cooking utensils out of the lending closet at Schweinfurt's Army Community Service for his family to use while they wait for their household goods. Elizabeth Capellan (left), central intake and relocation readiness coordinator at ACS, records the implements on an issue sheet.**

# Dress to impress: Schweinfurt job fair opens opportunities

by **SANDRA WILSON**  
*Bavarian News*

Getting a foothold in the work-world can be a discouraging challenge at times. While the U.S. employment market seems to offer such a wide variety of jobs, relocating overseas can sometimes be a letdown for potential workers.

It doesn't have to be that way, and that's why Schweinfurt Army Community Service is providing an opportunity for community members to explore possibilities at the job fair at Kessler Fitness Center Friday from 2 - 5:30 p.m.

"This is a great opportunity to fully engage (yourself) with all that is available," said Lew Lewis, employment readiness program manager at ACS.

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, the office that assists in the hiring process, will be available to provide support and information to civilians. ACS's primary target is to assist military

**Sometimes there's a hidden market... there are certain job positions out there that are recruited by the fact that I know somebody that knows somebody.**

**Lew Lewis**

ACS employment readiness program manager

spouses in employment readiness. Army Career and Alumni Program, or ACAP, will provide information on employment when transitioning out of the Army.

Numerous local supporting offices and agencies will be accepting resumes and applications for employment.

"Dress as if you're going to an interview, and have plenty of copies of your resume with you and ... bring a smile on your face," said Karla Lang, resource center coordinator in The Commons. "You can't portray yourself on a paper

as much as you can face-to-face."

The job fair not only opens the job market to potential applicants, but it also provides essential skills in building a resume or offering critiques of your current resume. An interview panel will be on hand to conduct mock interviews.

And just making your face known and networking is an essential ingredient to job hunting as well.

"While you're standing there in line, take advantage of (networking)," said Lewis. "Sometimes there's a hidden market ... there are

certain job positions out there that are recruited by that fact that I know somebody that knows somebody."

Sometimes employment agencies opt to hire by way of networking to avoid the slow official hiring process, he said. Networking, or sharing what you're capable of doing regarding work experience, education, and training, can be enticing to potential employers.

"A lot of jobs you apply for online you don't get face time at the beginning," Lang said. And sometimes, job fairs can be your only opportunity to represent yourself in person and make a lasting impression.

The job fair is for everyone with or without a stunning list of qualifications.

"You might not have the work experience," said Lewis. "You might not have the training. You might not have the education, but there's nothing that prevents you from doing it or getting started here."



## Sept. 1-30

## Sept. 1 to 30

Sept. 1-30

## Today

# Today

## Today

## Friday

**Sept. 10**

**Sept. 10**

Sept. 16

**Sept. 17**

Sept. 17

AFN Radio OpenLine Show  
will host Europe Region Medical  
Command to discuss "Soldier and  
Family Support Services" 10 a.m.  
to noon.

**Read past medical articles online!**  
**Visit [www.milcom.de](http://www.milcom.de) to access more**  
**information in our archives.**



# Casey: The whole force is stretched

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Training Center and Fort Irwin, about adjusting NTC training scenarios.

This adjustment, Casey said, would involve including “major conventional operations training” as well as “irregular warfare training” at NTC over the next couple of years, as Soldiers spend more time at home and not deployed.

“And we’re already starting the planning to reset the scenarios and the OPFOR [opposing force], so that we can do that,” Casey said.

“What I’ve seen now across the Army. We are a combat-seasoned force. Some of the battalions out here-60, 70, 80 percent-combat veterans, Gen. Casey said. “And so they know how to fight. And right now, we’re focused on irregular warfare. And a lot of the skills that they have are directly transferable to...major conventional operations.”

“We won’t flinch on making sure that our Soldiers have the best possible training and equipment to succeed in whatever war we send them into, and that’s what’s happening here every day,” Casey said.

### Force stretched

In his first 16 months as chief of staff, Casey said he and his wife have traveled extensively around the Army.

“It is very clear to us that the Families are stretched,” Casey said. “That the whole force is stretched. There’s no denying that. What

we’re asking of our Families is far different than anything that I have seen in my career up to now.”

“And I think while the next two years will continue to be hard,” he said “over time we’ll gradually build ourselves out of this.”

### Realism at NTC

Gen. Casey - who was in Iraq as recently as July and served as the commander of Multi-National Forces-Iraq between July 2004 and February 2007 - said he was struck by the NTC’s realism.

“And I must admit when I walked down the street the first time, the hair stood up on the back of my neck, because it was so real,” Gen. Casey said. “We’ve made a quantum advance just in the year plus since I’ve been here.”

### Force of future

The general said that the Army is building a versatile force that can operate “from peacetime engagements to major conventional operations and every place in between.”

The Army, Gen. Casey said, is “well on our way” to meeting the goal set by President George W. Bush in 2007 to increase the size of the Army by 74,000.

“That will allow us to build more brigades, which means, with more brigades, the ones that we have, go [are deployed] less,” Gen. Casey said.

The conversion of the Army over the last several years to a modular, brigade-based force

is now 70 percent complete, Gen. Casey said. By the end of fiscal year 2011, the conversion to these modular units will be 98 percent complete, he said.

“The transformation is a holistic effort,” the general said, “and we’re changing, basically, what was a Cold War Army before September 11th to a versatile, disciplined force that can operate across the spectrum of conflict in countries.”

### Training and versatility

Gen. Casey said that the time he spent in Iraq changed his views on the relationship between training and the versatility of the force.

“When I was a divisional commander in Germany in ‘99 to 2001, if you had asked me where I should optimize my training on the spectrum of conflict so I could be the most versatile, I would have said, If I can do conventional war, I can do anything.

“After 32 months in Iraq, I don’t believe that...mostly the Soldiers that have been to Iraq and Afghanistan don’t believe that, either. There’s enough difference, some fundamental differences between irregular warfare and major conventional warfare that we need to...be more versatile,” Gen. Casey said.

### Funding Family programs

Gen. Casey said that the Army is “put[ting] our money where our mouth is” in terms of providing programs for Soldiers and their Families to improve their quality of life.

The general said that Families were seeking funding and standardization. “First thing they said, ‘Look general, we don’t need a bunch of fancy new programs. You need to standardize the ones you have. Fund the ones you have and standardize them across the installations.’”

The Army recognized the needs of Soldiers and their Families, the general said, by establishing the Army Family Covenant in October 2007. The Army Family Covenant addresses needs relating to healthcare, housing, education and employment.

“We committed ourselves to ratcheting up the level of support that we’re giving to Soldiers and Families,” Casey said. “We doubled the amount of money that we’re putting towards Soldier and Family programs.” The Army spent \$1.4 billion on these programs in 2007 and is spending \$1.7 billion in 2008, he said.

### Message to Soldiers

To Soldiers deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, Casey said the following:

“I thank them for their sacrifice and for what they’re doing for this country. They are making a difference at a very critical time in our country’s history. And they are being successful at it.

“And I believe firmly that the efforts we’re making in Iraq and Afghanistan are allowing us to deal with the terrorist threat there and not here. And it’s the men and women of the armed forces that are making that possible, supported by their Families.”

# Holiday greeting team on its way to your area

continued from Page 1

almost 100 million homes last year alone.”

Allowing families back home to see or hear loved ones living overseas is the program’s mission, said Grogan.

“I don’t know how many phone calls I get from crying parents saying ‘thank you because I haven’t been able to see my son or daughter in the past year or two years,’” he said. “It means a lot to them.”

Such was the case with the Gary family, who have been in Germany since 2004 and did greetings last year for relatives in New York, Florida and Jamaica.

“Our family doesn’t get to see us much,” said Sgt. First Class Allah Gary, of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, explaining why he and his wife, Sherla, and their 4-year-old daughter, Jayllah, participated last year. “When I was home on leave, I saw commercials with servicemembers saying ‘hello’ to their families, and I thought, ‘wow, it would be nice if I could do that too’ – now, it’s my chance.”

Chances of such greetings airing are excellent, Grogan said, explaining, “We are the only ones who (tape holiday greetings from military members) in the United

States. We shoot anywhere from 10,000 to 15,000 greets a year and 95 percent of those get on the air. Out of 10,000, you are getting 9,500 of those on the air. With an air rate of more than 100 million a year, your chances of getting on the air are almost 99 percent.”

Grogan offers the following tips on how to make the most of the holiday greetings taping:

### What to wear?

Active-duty members must be in uniform. If the holiday tapings are at an event like a bazaar, servicemembers can just bring a top to put on right before they get in front of the camera – the shot is just from the top pockets up.” However, Grogan noted, “We prefer for them to be in uniforms ... because they are representing the United States on TV back home.”

Civilians should be in appropriate attire. “If you’re in Germany sending a holiday greeting back home, I wouldn’t be in shorts and tank tops because you want it to look like it’s almost fall here,” said Grogan. “But if you want to wear something that screams your location or if you are from Green Bay and want to wear your cheese hat – go for it.”

### What to bring?

“All they really need is (their

families’) city, state and phone number – (with) area code being the most important,” said Grogan. He added that the hometown news service can get it on the air with just locale data, but if participants have the phone number, it gives television and radio stations an opportunity to contact family members to let them know when the greetings are going to air. “About 95 percent of the time, the station will contact family members even in large markets like Detroit or New York,” said Grogan, who did four holiday greetings for his family in Detroit when he served in the Army and deployed downrange. “They were called (from the TV station) and saw me every time.”

### What to say?

Participants need to say five things within the greeting: Who they are; where they are; who the greeting is going to; where they are; and some sort of holiday message. There is not a maximum or minimum time length on greetings. But the best ones are about 15 seconds long, said Grogan.

Family members must be accompanied by sponsors, unless they are deployed. Spouses and children can make a greeting if the servicemember is deployed, TDY

or hospitalized, but they have to mention the deployment. Family members can also make a greeting to deployed military relatives, provided they are going to be downrange during the holidays.

### How many?

There is not a limit on how many greetings one family can send to the States as long as family members live more than 75 to 100 miles apart and receive different television stations. However, greetings must be sent to people who are related by law or blood. Fiancés are not relatives.

### Pets?

“You can bring your pet for the tapings as long as I’m not going to get bit,” joked Grogan, who added that he’s taped many families with pets.

The process When customers arrive for taping, they will need to complete a form for every greeting. A member of the hometown news crew verifies the information before giving a quick briefing.

“Super easy” is how Kaiserslautern High School teachers Steve and Marcy Bond described their taping last year. And at the time, they had four children under the age of 5. “So easy – we will do it every year now,” said Marcy.

Indeed, so easy that when it’s time to tape, a crewmember will simply escort participants to the camera, give another short briefing and then place microphones on them. The camera operator lines them up and records the greeting in “5, 4, 3, 2 ....”

### European Team Schedule:

**United Kingdom:**  
RAF Lakenheath, Aug. 25  
RAF Mildenhall, Aug. 26

**Germany:**  
Spangdahlem AB, Aug. 28-29  
USAG Kaiserslautern, Aug. 30, Sept. 3  
Landstuhl, Sept. 2  
USAG Baumholder, Sept. 4  
Ramstein AB, Sept. 5-6  
USAG Schweinfurt, Sept. 8  
USAG Wiesbaden, Sept. 9  
USAG Mannheim, Sept. 10  
USAG Heidelberg, Sept. 11  
USAG Stuttgart, Sept. 12  
USAG Hohenfels, Sept. 15  
USAG Grafenwoehr, Sept. 16  
Vilseck, Sept. 17  
USAG Bamberg, Sept. 18

**Kosovo:**  
Sept. 20-22

**Italy**  
USAG Vicenza, Sept. 25  
Aviano AB, Sept. 26-27

# Units convert, relocate, inactivate for Army Transformation

continued from Page 1

ian personnel will vary, based on the disposition of their units and the status of individual Soldiers and employees.

### United States Army in Europe Headquarters

USAREUR Headquarters converts to the 7th Army Headquarters, capable of expeditionary full-spectrum operations, and command and control, while continuing to serve as the Army Service Component Command to USEUCOM.

- V Corps Headquarters will inactivate.

### Signal Command

- The 5th Signal Command located in Mannheim will convert to a Theater Signal Command that supports both strategic and theater communications requirements. The unit’s designation is to be determined. It will relocate to Wiesbaden pending facilities availability.

- The 7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade (TTSB) in Mannheim relocate to Schweinfurt.

- The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) in Mannheim relocate to Schweinfurt.

### Base Operations Signal Support Organizations

- Headquarters, 2nd Signal Brigade in Mannheim converts to a new structure and will relocate to Wiesbaden pending facilities availability.

### Military Intelligence

Military Intelligence continues the conversion to an enduring Military Intelligence Brigade (MIB). This is a continuation of the transformation process which began in FY08.

- The 66th Military Intelligence (MI) Group headquarters converts to the 66th MI Brigade (MIB) at Wiesbaden.
- The 302nd MI Battalion Headquarters in Wiesbaden converts to the 24th MI Operations Battalion.
- The 2nd MI (Collection and Exploitation) Battalion in Wiesbaden converts to the 2nd MI (Forward Collection) Battalion.

### Engineer

- The 596th Engineer Company (Horizontal) activates in Schweinfurt, completing the activation of the 15th Engineer Battalion which began in 2007.
- The 535th Engineer Company in Grafenwoehr relocates to Schweinfurt.

### The following Combat Support and Combat Service Support changes will occur:

#### The following units convert:

- Headquarters, 7th Army Reserve Command in Kaiserslautern converts to the 7th Civil Support Command.
- The 720th Ordnance Company in Mannheim converts to a modular company.

#### The following units relocate:

- The 405th Army Field Support Brigade Europe Headquarters and associated logistics assistance representatives in Seckenheim to Kaiserslautern.
- The 409th Contracting Support Brigade Headquarters in Seckenheim to Kaiserslautern.

- The Civilian Human Resources Agency-Europe Region in Seckenheim to Kaiserslautern.

- The United States Army Contracting Command in Seckenheim to Kaiserslautern.
- The Regional Contracting Office-Wiesbaden to Kaiserslautern.
- The 635th Movement Control Team (MCT), Wiesbaden to Kaiserslautern

#### The following units activate:

- The 517th Medical Company, Baumholder.

#### The following units inactivate:

- The 1st Armored Division Support Command (DISCOM), Wiesbaden.
- The 76th Army Band, Mannheim.
- The 147th AG Postal Company, Baumholder.
- The 566th AG Postal Company, Mannheim.

#### The following units return to CONUS:

- The 109th Transportation

Company, Mannheim.

- The 495th Movement Control Team, Vicenza.
- The 606th Movement Control Team, Mannheim.

### Military Police Actions:

- Military Police Augmentation Platoons will be activated to provide dedicated community military police support in the communities listed:

- 516th Augmentation Platoon, Ansbach.
- 23rd Augmentation Platoon, Baumholder.
- 146th Augmentation Platoon, Stuttgart.
- 148th Augmentation Platoon, Wiesbaden.
- 512th and 514th Augmentation Platoons, Grafenwoehr.
- 545th Augmentation Platoon, Kaiserslautern.
- 522nd Augmentation Platoon, Schweinfurt.
- 820th Augmentation Platoon, Hohenfels.
- Additionally, the 2nd Platoon, 615th Military Police Company, Ansbach relocates to Grafenwoehr.



2008: NEW BEGINNINGS

Vilseck High School football head coach Jim Hall (center) focuses on the fundamentals of football and a team-first concept as he prepares the Falcons for Division I play.



# New coaches, new program

## Falcons move to Division I, face off against DoDDS-E big names

Story and photos by  
MARY MARKOS  
*Bavarian News*

“I consider him the best football coach in (Department of Defense Dependents Schools)-Europe right now,” said Vilseck High School assistant football coach Sam Cassou about head coach Jim Hall. “He’s got a history that precedes him of successful football programs.”

With a combined record of 62-18 over the last seven years, Hall and Cassou, join forces this year to take Vilseck High School football into Division I.

The coaches, who faced each other on the gridiron three times when they coached Naples High School and Hanau High School respectively, bring a new philosophy to the school that focuses on building not just football players, but men.

“Coach always says that he’s out here to make us better men before we’re better football players,” said Tyler Hall, a junior.

“If he teaches us to be better men, than we’re already going to be better football players,” said junior Andrew Feazelle, who played on the Vilseck varsity football team last year.

To build both men and football

players, the coaches started with a foundation of life lessons and basic skills.

“In any kind of practice, there are always life lessons to be taught,” Tyler Hall said. “I think that every day there is something else that (Coach Hall) teaches us.”

For Feazelle, who is also a team manager, it is the coaches’ attention to detail that has shaped the players and is molding the team.

“It is the small things... just taking people aside talking to them. (Coach Hall) is really good at the little things, just as he is really good at the big things,” he said.

Coach Hall’s philosophy and coaching style took Naples High School to the Division II playoffs every year, and led to only five regular season losses during the seven years Hall served as coach at the school.

“We always tell our kids, last year was last year; this year is a different year,” said Hall. “We’re putting a total new defense in. We’re putting a total new offense in. It is something they are not used to. The biggest problem will be getting the players in the correct positions... getting them to buy into our program and believe that what we are doing will be successful.”

The success of the program, he

said, depends on the dedication of the players.

“I think we have a huge number of skill players,” he said. “What we’re missing right now is lineman. So, if we can get some more kids in here, five or six larger kids that can play the line for us, I think we’re going to be a very good football team.”

“There are some great young leaders who are excited about the prospect of a new program and a fresh start,” Cassou added.

The team, with an increase in school population to more than 500 students, moves into Division I and will compete against what Hall and Cassou consider the big names of DoDDS-E football.

“Division I is kind of controlled by Ramstein and Heidelberg. It is a high level of football,” Coach Hall said. “But, I think we can attain that here at Vilseck. If we can compete day in and day out in each football game and be competitive in each football game this year, we’ll be happy.”

“Vilseck has always been a very physical, very tough football team,” he added, “so I don’t think that is going to change at all. I want us to be consistent. I want us to play with everything we have. I want us to play to the last whistle, doing everything

we possibly can to win the football game.”

Cassou, who served as Hanau High School head football coach for the last four years with a record of 23-6, is looking forward to the tough competition.

“I’m expecting very good, competitive games,” he said. “The coaches in Division I are well prepared. (They) are very knowledgeable; many of them played college ball and have been coaching for many years. I really respect the other coaches in the program.”

As a player, Feazelle said the reputation of the bigger schools does not intimidate him.

“I don’t think these teams will be any harder. I think we just need to go out there and be focused. We have so much talent on this team,” he added.

To prepare for the competition, Hall and Cassou work the players as a team, not as individual athletes.

“I don’t believe in me, me, me,” Hall said. “I believe in us. If the team wins, we elevate everybody. I’m very strong on discipline; I’m very strong on organization; I’m very strong on the team-first concept.”

The team, Cassou said, includes the community, which he hopes will show their support by attending the Falcon’s

home games.

“I would like to see 1,500 to 2,000 people in the stands,” he said. “These boys work hard. Some of them sacrifice a lot to come early in their summer at the start of football camp.”

“Believe me,” said Cassou, “they are sweating every day during practice trying to make themselves better. A lot of them are changing their attitudes... their life attitudes. These kids are really putting the effort and we’re looking to have them recognized a little bit by having the community come to the games.”

The Falcons’ season begins Sept. 13 with a home game against Kaiserslautern.

*Pick up the Sept. 17 issue of the Bavarian News for an in-depth preview of the team and 2008 season.*

### Falcons Schedule

**Sept. 13- Kaiserslautern**  
**Sept. 20- Ramstein**  
**Sept. 27- at International School of Brussels**  
**Oct. 4- local German team**  
**Oct. 11- at Heidelberg**  
**Oct. 18- Patch**



The Falcon football team prepares for the 2008 season with intense drills and strenuous practices. With an increased population, the team enters Division I and will play DoDDS-E powerhouse teams in Ramstein and Heidelberg.